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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you believe Russian
and Chinese tourists are
essential to the survival
of the CNMI's tourism
industry?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

6

As of August 12, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnnmpheo@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Raucous Meeting

Jeers and taunts drowned out Democrats calling for a health care overhaul at town halls.

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New Mom

Jennifer Hudson has a new role—that of a proud mother.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The debt owed by independent and autonomous agencies to the NMI Retirement Fund has now grown to \$22.5 million as of July 31 this year, according to a Fund official.

Comptroller David Demapan disclosed that at the beginning of the fiscal year, these agencies' unpaid em-

See \$22.5M on Page 4

Fitial asks garment trust fund to help displaced workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday asked the Garment Workers Trust Fund to reconsider its decision not to provide compensation to former garment workers who have prevailed in their labor cases but who have not been paid because

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\$22.5M owed and growing

RELATED NEWS

Fund: No to delay in suspending refund payments. PAGE 5



POLICE IN ACTION

With their firearms drawn, two police officers in bulletproof vests "storm" a hallway to disarm a suspected terrorist, while a student, right, waits for his cue to run outside the room during an "active shooting" training for 30 police officers at the former Koresco Hotel in As Lito yesterday. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security-funded training is being conducted by three instructors from the Idaho and South Carolina-based Government Training Institute led by Dennis O'Connor. Workforce Investment Agency student interns assigned to the Department of Public Safety also took part in the training. See story on Page 2

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Slight recovery in China, Korea travelers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Arrivals from two key markets of the Commonwealth showed a slight recovery last month due to additional flights initiated this summer, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

South Korea, which posted eight consecutive months of double-digit declines, registered

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FISCAL YEAR 2008 - 2009			
TOTAL TO DATE:	2008	2009	% Change
October	27,238	29,611	8.71%
November	31,618	31,690	0.23%
December	35,849	34,181	-4.65%
January	38,119	38,932	2.13%
February	40,222	35,594	-11.51%
March	32,352	32,908	1.72%
April	31,800	27,833	-12.47%
May	31,203	24,128	-22.67%
June	30,936	21,803	-29.52%
July	35,259	30,301	-14.06%
August	34,251	—	—
September	27,650	—	—
YEAR TOTAL:	396,497	306,981	-----

Buckingham nominated to attorney general post

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated yesterday assistant attorney general Edward T. Buckingham to be the next CNMI attorney general.

Buckingham, in a telephone interview late yesterday afternoon, said he thanks the



Buckingham

governor for his trust and confidence, and respects the Senate's confirmation process. He said he received a copy of the governor's nomination letter yesterday.

Buckingham is the longest serving lawyer in the Office of the Attorney General, and is one of the few who has

See BUCKINGHAM on Page 4



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Local

'Active shooting' response training for police officers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

As students ran toward the door to flee a shooting rampage, responding police officers wear-

ing bulletproof vests and arms drawn storm the hallways and rooms to search for the "shooter" and stop him from doing further harm.

This was one of the scenes in yesterday's first responder active shooting training funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and conducted by three instructors from the Idaho and South Carolina-based Government Training Institute for 30 police officers or first responders.

The "immediate action teams—the active shooter" training, being held at the former Koresco Hotel in As Lito, is the first training of its kind for law enforcement officers in the CNMI.

Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, traffic commander of the Department of Public Safety, said the training prepares law enforcers to respond quickly and effectively to shootings in schools, malls and other public places, similar to what has been happening in the states.

With the training, police officers who are the first to arrive on the scene need not wait for a tactical response team to arrive before deciding to stop the shooting and save lives.

"It's not a matter of if it's go-

ing to happen here, but when," he said. "We need to provide this kind of training program because in an active shooting incident, if you are going to wait for us TRET guys...to show up, it's going to take us 45 minutes to one hour. If a guy is here shooting somebody [and first responders don't act], we'll start getting body bags."

TRET stands for Tactical Response Enforcement Team.

Guerrero, who is also the commander of the CNMI Explosive Response Team, said the training is a collaboration among DPS, the Commonwealth Ports Authority police and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security.

"Nobody in the CNMI can provide this training at this point in time. So we brought in the professionals [from GTI]: the people who do case studies of incidents that have occurred, the dos and don'ts, what went right, what went wrong. These are the experts," he said.

Patrick Tudela, training coordinator at the CNMI Office of Homeland Security, said the training was made possi-

ble by grant funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

He and Guerrero said a basic SWAT training will also be held next week for police officers, ports police officers and Corrections officers. SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics.

"If they complete the basic SWAT training, they will be sent to the GTI facilities for additional training," Tudela said.

Dennis O'Connor, director of training at the Government Training Institute, said first responders need to be able to move down hallways, intersections and rooms, as well as know how to shoot while they're moving and a grasp of the situation, among other things, to be able to respond effectively.

O'Connor is the lead instructor in the ongoing training, along with GTI instructors John Pompi and Travis Peterson. GTI is a private law enforcement training, police training, and military training facility and mobile team, according to its website.

GTI held a similar training in

Guam last year.

'Inspired to become police officers'

Nineteen student trainees under the Workforce Investment Agency summer program participated in yesterday's police training. They acted as students who were at the scene of the "shooting" rampage.

Lyle Deleon Guerrero, 16, of Marianas High School, said he not only enjoyed being part of the training—seeing law enforcers in action—but also was inspired to become a police officer someday. "I want to help in the safety of civilians," he said.

Jirelle Maralit, 15, who will be a student at Saipan Southern High School when classes start, said she, too, is now thinking about joining the police force after taking part in the training.

The WIA trainees, who are assigned to DPS, are students at MHS, SSHS, and Kagman High School.

The graduation for the immediate action training will be held on Friday, 2pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Rev&Tax sitting on IT&E's retirement payout plan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

need of help, probably some of them already passed away."

"I guess they have not taken [IT&E's] letter as an urgent issue at the time," Hocog added.

The issue of the one-year-old pending request for approval came about when Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz and later Hocog asked IT&E about the delay in its payment of retirement benefits to former MTC employees.

Approval of the retirement plan would have paved the way for the long-awaited retirement payouts of over \$1 million to former employees of the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., now IT&E.

"I respect the message from the assistant attorney general handling the issue, Mr. Jim Stump, that it's kind of complex; that they wouldn't be able to issue a ruling overnight," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*.

But he said "one year of hibernating is quite some time when a lot of the beneficiaries are in

Two weeks ago, IT&E executive vice president Larry Knecht told lawmakers they are waiting for Rev&Tax's final approval of the distribution.

Knecht said over a year ago or on July 1, 2008, IT&E sought a favorable determination on its retirement plan from the Division of Revenue & Taxation, and that request is still pending.

Members of the House PUTC Committee have since then inquired with Rev&Tax.

Yesterday, Hocog said the committee is giving Rev&Tax until Wednesday next week to respond to the committee's let-

ter inquiring about the status of IT&E's request for approval of its employee retirement plan.

"I am giving them the benefit of the doubt. By doing it in a diplomatic way, we hope to address this matter. The most important thing here is that we find solution to the problem of the pensioners," he added.

The Rota lawmaker said if the committee does not receive a letter from Rev&Tax by Wednesday, then they would ask for a meeting among parties involved—Rev&Tax, IT&E, the Office of the Attorney General, and PUTC Committee.

Besides the July 2008 letter to Rev&Tax, IT&E received on Dec. 29, 2008, notification from the Washington, D.C.-based Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. that the final distribution is required within 120 days after approval from the Internal Revenue Service which in this case means the local taxing authority, the Division of Revenue and Taxation, said Knecht.

James Santos appeals to the Ninth Circuit

Former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos filed in federal court yesterday a notice of appeal on his conviction and sentence for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

In the notice, Victorino DLG. Torres, lawyer for Santos, states that the defendant appeals to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals the final judgment and sentence entered on Aug. 6.

Torres' law firm paid yesterday afternoon the filing fee of \$455.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson sentenced James Santos and his wife Joaquina to six years and six months in prison each for their involve-

ment in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

Munson sentenced former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison.

Villagomez and his sister Joaquina earlier told the court that they are also going to appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

As of yesterday afternoon, Villagomez and Joaquina had yet to file their notices of appeal.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are temporarily free while a decision is being made on where they will be incarcerated. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction off various furniture and equipments from the Sunset Villa Hotel. A list of properties for auction may be obtained at CDA's Offices in Saipan and Rota.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at **SUNSET VILLA HOTEL, SONTON, ROTA on Friday, August 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**;
4. The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 14, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

Inspection of the properties is recommended and may be arranged with Ms. Nanette E. Atalig any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays except holidays.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAR
Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP 09-019

"A & E and Construction Management Services FOR PSS ARRA Projects"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for **Architectural, Engineering and Construction Management Services for the CNMI Public School System for ARRA Projects**. The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 09-019" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **September 01, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.** Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be a Pre-Bid Conference for interested proposers on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at the PSS COE Conference on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building at Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to David Loan, CIP Coordinator, via fax # (670) 664-3715 or email to loand@pss.cnmi.mp.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Clinic warns of start of pink-eye epidemic in NMI

The early stages of a pink-eye epidemic has struck the first few Saipan residents over the past week, according to a Marianas Eye Institute statement yesterday.

Pink-eye is a highly contagious eye infection that can spread rapidly through communities, causing severe eye pain and even loss of vision.

Dr. David Khorram, the ophthalmologist and medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, said he began seeing the first cases last week.

"The epidemic is just in its early

stages. The first few patients have come in with severe redness, tearing and discomfort of one eye. Our goal right now is to make the public immediately aware of it to help contain the epidemic and prevent its spread through the community," he said.

Pink eye, or what is known as epidemic keratoconjunctivitis, is caused by several strains of viruses. Khorram explained that most viruses have no specific treatment.

"Just like a cold, you have to wait it

out. There are things we can do to help you feel more comfortable, but typically it just takes time." He said. "This particular strain of pink-eye is lasting at least one week."

Epidemic keratoconjunctivitis is spread when people come into contact with the virus in the tears.

The most important preventive action is to wash your hands frequently and to avoid touching your eyes. Many people have a tendency to carry a washcloth around to dab their eyes.

The washcloth becomes a reservoir for the virus and makes the spread easy. I tell people that if you need to wipe your eyes, use a tissue, then immediately throw it away and wash your hands," said Khorram. "If you have pink eye and you use your hand to wipe your eye, and then you touch a doorknob, the next person that comes along and touches that doorknob and then rubs their eye can catch the virus."

After one to two weeks, the redness can go away, but blurred vision can begin. The virus has been known to cause scarring of the cornea, and loss of vision.

"If you have pain or discomfort, we

can help make that better. The other concern is that if your vision becomes blurred, we need to take steps to help prevent permanent visual loss," said Khorram.

Not everyone with pink-eye needs to see the doctor, he said. The key is to prevent its spread, and to seek medical attention for relief of symptoms.

"To prevent its spread, wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your eyes, and don't share towels or pillow-cases with anyone," added Khorram.

Past epidemics in the CNMI have resulted in hundreds afflicted, and high absences from work and school. (PR)

Convicted child abuser's habeas petition denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A convicted child abuser's petition to compel the Department of Corrections to release him from alleged unlawful detention was denied yesterday.

In denying Juan Borja Camacho's petition for a writ of habeas corpus, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that Camacho's claim of conspiracy involving the Attorney General's Office, his attorney, the Division of Youth Services witnesses, the victim, and the victim's family was un-

substantiated by any evidence.

Wiseman said Camacho failed to allege a single factual basis for the alleged conspiracy and instead, insults and demeans the CNMI Judiciary, DYS, the AGO, Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Public Defender, and the

victim of his crime.

"It is unfounded by the evidence and illogical to conclude that a conspiracy existed to frame [Camacho]," the judge said.

Wiseman pointed out that there is nothing mysterious about his conviction and the court, in the absence of evidence, must conclude that no

conspiracy existed.

According to court documents, Camacho sexually abused a female minor at his residence on July 12 and 13, 2004.

In September 2006, a jury found Camacho guilty on two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. The jurors acquitted him on two

counts of kidnapping.

Wiseman convicted the defendant of two counts of disturbing the peace.

In November 2006, Wiseman sentenced the then 57-year-old Camacho to 30 years in prison.

The defendant appealed his conviction, but the CNMI Supreme Court in February 2009 affirmed his conviction.

Status of Rota, Tinian airports may be downgraded

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has expressed concerns over the federal takeover of local immigration, saying the entry of the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection may lead to a "downgrading" in the status of both its Rota and Tinian airports.

In his July 22 report to the board of directors, CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho said a "side effect" of federalization is the existing federal laws and regulations, which stipulate that the CBP controls the right to certify the interna-

tional classification of an airport.

If, in the opinion of CBP, an airport is not being used enough to justify a permanent presence, CBP may decide to reclassify the existing Commonwealth ports, he said.

"Our airport can be downgraded to a domestic status and, given the current international activity at both Tinian and Rota, this raises a major concern," Camacho told the board.

Because of limited flights and inadequate facilities required for an international airport, Camacho said that

"downgrading" the two airports' status would further hurt the ailing CNMI economy.

The CBP in June asked CPA for space and improvements in anticipation of the federal takeover on Nov. 28. This request, according to Camacho, included access to the existing immigration area and a request for an additional site at the Saipan airport.

Saipan Tribune learned that CBP also wants headquarters at both Rota and Tinian airports.

Camacho said that CPA would need



Camacho

substantial funds to make the necessary improvements.

"CPA will explore both financial and political ways to provide funding for these improvements," Camacho said.

Rota Sen. Paul Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that if the Rota airport is downgraded, the island and its people will suffer.

"If that will happen...it means that's the end of Freedom Air for Rota," he said, adding that he earlier asked the CPA management to look into the possible downgrading of Rota and Tinian airports.

Manglona said it would also hamper all efforts of Rota to develop its

casino industry and other developments on the island.

Rota has seen over 30 charter flights arrive from Japan the past year, and Tinian continues to push for direct international flights from China.

Saipan Tribune was told that CBP representatives are expected on island to finalize the details of its plans.

CBP is one of the DHS' largest and most complex components with a priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing and facilitating trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws.

SLIGHT

From Page 1

a total of 9,987 visitors in July—a 2-percent decline compared to arrivals during the same period in 2008.

MVA said the slight progress is a result of the resumption of daytime flights from Seoul last month.

The Seoul flights, along with two more weekly flights from Busan, both through Asiana Airlines, resumed their normal schedule for the summer. These were suspended in April this year.

MVA also said that arrivals from the China market posted a significant improvement last month, showing a 42-percent increase to 2,470.

This was attributed to the overwhelming majority of Chinese visitors who traveled on package tours for pleasure.

Despite these positive numbers, MVA said the CNMI's overall arrivals are still down by 14 percent compared to July 2008, mainly because of the continuing impact of the global economic crisis.

MVA records show that the CNMI accommodated a total of 30,301 trav-

elers last month; in July 2008, the numbers were at 35,259.

From October 2008 to date, the CNMI recorded 306,981 visitors.

Overall, the agency said the total fiscal year to date is 8.25 percent fewer visitors compared to the same period in 2008.

Arrivals from the CNMI's primary market of Japan is still down for the fourth consecutive month, posting a 25-percent decline in July (14,277) compared to the 19,012 visitors accommodated in July 2008.

MVA attributed the drop to school and family trip cancellations due to

the H1N1 flu virus, combined with the lagging economy that has hit overseas travel budgets very hard.

However, the agency is optimistic the numbers will go up because of a series of new charter flights from Japan beginning last month.

After posting consecutive monthly increases since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Russian market was down 36 percent for the second month with just 502 visitors.

According to MVA industry partners, the decline was largely due to prospective Russian travelers being under the

impression that immigration federalization had already been implemented as originally planned on June 1, 2009, and that they would need to procure a U.S. visa to visit the Northern Marianas.

There were also 41 percent fewer visitors from the Philippines, 101; and 17 percent fewer visitors from the United States, 908, despite military port calls by the USS *Charlotte* and USS *Albuquerque*. Other areas were also down 47 percent to 229, while Taiwan had 31 more visitors compared to July 2008, while Guam arrivals were off by only 1 percent at 1,746.

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

worked in both civil and criminal divisions.

A statement from the Office of the Governor quoted Buckingham as saying that it would be his privilege to assume the responsibility on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Fitial, in a letter to Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos are confident in

Buckingham's qualifications to fulfill the vital responsibilities of OAG.

Reyes could not be reached for comment on Buckingham's appointment.

The Senate president had been critical of Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka holding the acting general position since former Attorney General Matthew Gregory quit his post in September 2008. He succeeded to the position after Gregory's resignation to re-enter private practice.

Buckingham's appointment needs

Senate confirmation.

Meanwhile, Baka continues to serve as the acting attorney general, the governor's office said.

Prior to nominating Buckingham, Fitial had offered the position to at least four attorneys who declined the offer. Among them were lawyers Victorino Torres of Torres Brothers LLC and Teresa Kim, the current counsel for the lieutenant governor.

Key role

Buckingham has been serving as an as-

sistant attorney general since 2003.

Besides working in both civil and criminal divisions, Buckingham has also held a key role spearheading the federal prison consent decree compliance. Buckingham also has served as counsel to the departments of Public Safety and Corrections, as well as counsel to the CNMI Board of Parole.

"Ed is a strategic thinker with goal-oriented plans for the office," said Baka in a statement. "I look forward to working for him in whatever capacity he sees fit."

Buckingham has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, one of the top-ranked schools in the United States, where he graduated with honors. He earned his law degree from the University of Denver. He is admitted to practice law in Colorado, the CNMI, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Mr. Buckingham is a highly qualified attorney with years of experience. I ask the Senate to approve his nomination. I see no issues with this nomination," said Fitial.

FITAL

From Page 1

both the employer and the bonding company have gone out of business.

The governor's letter came over two months after the trust fund announced that it still has \$600,000 available to help former garment workers who are still on Saipan and are facing hardships.

The trust fund also earlier said it intends to donate its remaining funds to charity.

In yesterday's letter to Garment Workers Trust Fund chair Timothy H. Bellas, Fitial said "if the Trust Fund can make a donation to a charity, then it would seem also possible for the Trust

Fund to make a donation to each qualified worker."

Fitial said a distribution from the trust fund to each worker with proven claims that remain unpaid seems the best way to carry out the original intent of the litigation that created the fund. He said the distribution may be in an equal amount.

He said there is no need to make any attempt to make the workers whole on their claims or to pay any "wage" as such.

Bellas, in a phone interview yesterday, said he reserves any comment to the media until he responds directly to Fitial's letter.

He also said he will be sending a

copy of the governor's letter to two other members of the Garment Workers Trust Fund. They are former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy and former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso.

Fitial cited a list of individuals claims on behalf of 213 former garment workers totaling some \$700,000 that was provided by the Department of Labor to Bellas' office in May.

At the time of the release of the list, Kaipat had said the claims were from the information provided by those who registered with Labor at the Garapan Central Park last summer

and include those who registered with the federal ombudsman's office in the summer of 2007. Kaipat's list includes workers who were employed by garment industry subcontractors.

"Some of these workers would like to return home, but do not have enough savings for a ticket and there is no employer or bond to tap for the ticket," Fitial told Bellas.

In his letter, the governor also said the CNMI "has made great strides in improving its guest worker program."

"Making a donation to qualified workers would help close the books on the past. I hope that you will be able to support this proposal," he added.

The former Garment Oversight Board, then chaired by Bellas, estab-

lished the trust fund after settlement money in the form of checks originally distributed to the workers came back or were not cashed.

The board was set up pursuant to the landmark \$20 million settlement agreement in the class action against Saipan's garment industry.

Since March, Saipan has completely lost its once mighty garment industry due to the lifting of world trade rules. The industry used to employ some 20,000 workers, most of them from Asian countries such as China and the Philippines.

Earlier, Bellas said the trust fund is still accepting applications from former garment workers to avail of the funding until Aug. 15, 2009.

\$22.5M

From Page 1

ployer's contribution totaled \$15.3 million but the amount has since grown to \$21.1 million last month, a 37-percent increase.

The \$21.1 million covers the principal and prior years' 25 percent interest, while \$1.2 million represent FY 2009 interest penalty.

Topping the list of delinquent contributors among the government's eight autonomous agencies is the Public

School System, which has \$11.6 million in cumulative unpaid employer's contributions.

Northern Marianas College comes next with \$4.9 million in unpaid contributions; the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with \$2 million; and the Tinian Municipal treasury, \$1.6 million.

The Marianas Visitors Authority also owes the Fund \$427,057; while the Commonwealth Ports Authority is in arrears for \$161,752 and \$156,701 in unpaid contributions (CPA has an standing memorandum of agreement with the Fund, resulting in two contri-

butions collected from the agency).

Department of Public Lands owes \$101,341 to the Fund.

During the board's recent meeting, it was disclosed that among these agencies, CPA and CUC have signified their interest to "negotiate" with the Fund and both have asked for waivers.

\$6.9M paid for federally-funded employees'

Demapan also reported that since Fiscal Year 2007, the Fund received a total of \$6.9 million payment for federally-funded employees of the government.

For July this year, the employer contributions for federally-funded personnel amounted to \$2 million.

"Overall, the federal employer contributions were \$6.9 million since Fiscal Year 2007," Demapan told the board, adding that in addition to this figure, PSS paid \$86,000 in contributions for its federally funded personnel since FY 2008.

'\$559M unfunded liability as of July'

To date, the Fund has \$559 million in unfunded liabilities representing pension obligations to members, Demapan said.

Saipan Tribune learned that this unfunded liability started in October 2007 when the Fund posted total unpaid pension obligations of \$879.2 million. However, with assets of \$320.2 million that was used to fulfill this obligation, the Fund arrived at an unfunded liability of \$559 million to date.

"In other words, for every dollar that the Fund owes the beneficiaries, only 36 cents are funded and 64 cents are unfunded. To date, the net change in net assets showed a deficit of \$80.02 million without the July 2009 investment activity," Demapan reported.

Fund: No to delay in suspending refund payments

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund is being urged to delay until 2010 the suspension of refund payments to members in anticipation of the impact of federalization this November.

Fund's lawyer James Holl-

man told the Fund's board of trustees during a recent meeting that several members have asked the Fund to reconsider suspending refund payments to give them time to prepare for the impact of federalization on Nov. 28.

Last month, the board ad-

opted Resolution 09-003 to cease payment of employee contribution refunds starting Sept. 1. The decision was made because of the present shaky status of the Fund's investments and upon discovery that some members who had asked for refunds immediately returned to government service within less than the

six-month furlough allowed under the law.

"They're asking if the board will consider delaying the implementation of the decision to stop paying refunds to members in anticipation of the impact of federalization in November," Hollman told the board, hinting that members may need to withdraw their Fund contributions if their jobs are affected by federalization.

Majority of the board members agreed, however, to press ahead with the scheduled suspension.

"The resolution needs to take place...and if the board sees there's a need to reconsider because of the federalization impact to members, that's the only

sions were made to protect the Fund's assets for all members by any means necessary until such time as the Fund is no longer in a fiscal emergency.

It was earlier disclosed that over \$5 million is being released every year by the Fund for contribution refunds of members.

A study conducted by the Fund revealed that a total of 939 applications were received by the agency from 2007 to May 2009, all intending to withdraw their contributions.

The Fund is inviting members and the public to attend the Aug. 26, 6:30pm public hearing on Saipan at the Multi-Purpose Center. Similar hearing will be held on Aug. 27 on Tinian and Aug. 28 on Rota.

Woman hurt in domestic violence

Police arrested Tuesday a man who, while drunk, allegedly beat up his wife at their home in Tanapag.

The victim told police that Roland D. Kapileo got mad when she told him she does not need him anymore.

The 31-year-old Kapileo was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A \$10,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero stated in his report that a police officer who went to the house on July 20 saw the victim crying in pain, with her left eye and temple swollen and with injuries on the back, arms, ears, and lips.

Leon Guerrero said police responded at 8:52pm to the Tanapag house after receiving a report about a domestic violence incident.

Investigation showed that the victim had been ill the

past few days prior to the incident and had been to the hospital. On July 20, she was arrested at that time because he fled the area.

In June 2002, the wife also complained that Kapileo beat her up out of jealousy.

In January 2009, police arrested Kapileo for reportedly attacking his neighbor with a knife. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Kapileo, who was drunk, started "bothering" his wife, but she told him she was sick. He then got mad when she told him to go away because she doesn't need him anymore. He allegedly punched her in the face repeatedly.

The victim ran outside the house, but Kapileo followed her and repeatedly punched and kicked her.

When a police officer arrived, Kapileo was seen shouting and kicking and punching the door inside the house. The defendant then fled through a back window and ran to the jungle behind the house.

Leon Guerrero said that, last May 2, the defendant also allegedly beat up the victim during an argument. Kapileo was not

Man arrested for alleged threats

Police arrested on Tuesday a man who allegedly beat up and threatened to kill his former common-law wife last year and early this year.

Jawn A. Joyner, 29, was arrested for assault, and assault and battery. He was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

At the hearing, Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a \$1,000 cash bail and \$9,000 unsecured bond for Joyner's temporary liberty.

Inos released the defendant to a third party custodian.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in court papers that on Feb. 7, 2009, a woman called the Department of Public Safety to complain that her former common-law husband, Joyner,

had threatened to kill her. The complainant added that on Sept. 4, 2008, Joyner allegedly hit her with his fists in the presence of their child.

The complainant said Joyner also allegedly hit their son when he tried to intervene and stop him from beating her.

Joyner allegedly threatened to kill her or have another person kill her if she reports the incident to the police.

On Feb. 7, Joyner allegedly called the victim on the phone and threatened to go to her house to beat her up and take her children away.

It was not clear yet why police asked for the arrest warrant for Joyner only this week. (Ferdie de la Torre)

BIRTHDAY BOY

Happy birthday greetings to Garrett Maratita Weaver a.k.a. "G-boy", who is celebrating his 4th birthday today, Aug. 13, 2009! May you have a fun and wonderful day with family and friends. We love you, may God bless you and may you have many more "action-packed" birthdays to come. Hugs and kisses from Mommy, Daddy, Tori, Justis, Pedro, Jojo and the family!



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Temporary water hours in As Matuus homestead areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be implementing a nine-day temporary water service schedule in the As Matuus Homestead areas starting this Thursday, Aug. 13, to allow its crew to work on a pipeline project in the area.

The new temporary water

service will begin on Aug. 13 and will last up to Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, from 8am to 7pm.

This will allow the Water Task Force's contractor RNV to connect six new wells and disinfect the transmission main pipelines for the water supply into these areas.

As part of the WTF and CUC's continuing effort to improve water service, customers in these areas are advised to expect intermittent service disruptions as the contractor continues well connections and disinfection tests of the main pipelines.

Customers along the high

elevation areas of As Matuus Homestead can expect reduced pressures during this testing period. Once final connections and disinfection tests are completed, normal water service will be restored to all affected customers.

Residents are encouraged to

practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water, especially during this period. Rainwater catchment systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any works.

For more information, contact Bruce Megarr, deputy director for Water and Wastewater Operations, at 235-7025 through 235-7032 Ext. 172 or Mariano Iglesias, Water and Wastewater operations manager at Ext. 155. (PR-CUC)

Saipan Laolao donates \$4,200 to NMC Foundation

The Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., which owns and operates LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort, a 36-hole golf course designed by Greg Norman, recently presented a \$4,200 dona-

tion to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

The donation was part of the company's sponsorship of the Foundation's 7th Annual Foundation Open golf tourna-

ment, which was held last June. The Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., had already donated \$5,000 as part of their sponsorship; its total sponsorship contribution now amounts to more

than \$9,000.

"We are proud to help the Northern Marianas College further its mission of helping CNMI residents improve their quality of life through



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Against the backdrop of a Greg Norman-designed 36-hole golf course, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, second from right, accepts a check for \$4,200 from LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort president/CFO Yun Kim, third from right. Also in photo are LaoLao Bay general manager Tetsuya Matsunaga, far right, and NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta, far left.

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AMP prepares for annual 'Talk Like a Pirate Night'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Preparations are now underway for the annual "Talk Like a Pirate Night" hosted by the American Memorial Park as a special project for the youth and the local community.

Held every 19th of September each year, this will be the fourth time that AMP is sponsoring this event, which is part of the celebration of Pirate Month from Sept. 8 to Oct. 16.

U.S. National Park Service Ranger Nancy Kelchner said this fun activity is focused on team building.

It will be open to the community, especially children, who must come in pirate attire.

Kelchner said the children can expect a lot of enjoyable activities prepared by AMP staff but all age groups can join the fun.

Each participant will be given a pirate name.

DUI checkpoints on Saturday, Sunday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15-16.

On Saturday, Aug. 15, the first setup will be on Beach Road, Garapan, by Bank Pacific, from 7:30pm until 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo-Rai by the Sherwin Williams Building. This operation will begin at 10pm and end at 11:15pm.

On Sunday, Aug. 16, the third setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe, by the Multi-Purpose building, from 1am to 2:15am.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour

tion," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone post-secondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

"Saipan Laolao's contribution and steadfast support reflects the company's commitment to providing higher education opportunities for CNMI students," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are thankful for their contribution." (NMC)

AMP will also have instant photo services where children can have their photographs taken to bring home as souvenirs.

As in past events, parents or guardians may participate in several exciting games like solving the Pirate Math Problems.

There will also be pirate arts and craft for participants, using recycled materials.

Guests will also get to watch a pirate movie, *The Black Swan*, about notorious pirate Henry Morgan (played by Tyrone Power) who enlists the help of some of his former partners in ridding the Caribbean of buccaneers.

Other stars are Maureen O'Hara and Laird Cregar.

"It is a very nice film fit for the night's theme," Kelchner said.

AMP, which is under the supervision of the National Parks Service, has also lined up several activities for the rest of the year, including the annual "Trick or Treat" for Halloween in November.

This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to deter, detect and apprehend impaired motorists on our highways and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

These checkpoints are part of the "Impaired Driving National Enforcement Crackdown" that are scheduled from Aug. 15 through Sept. 7, 2009.

For more information, contact Officer Sandy Hambros or Sgt. Paul T. Ogumoro at 664-9084 or 664-9085. (PR-DPS)



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Swine flu guide issued for pregnant women

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health issued a new guideline and information campaign material for pregnant women on how to deal with the influenza H1N1 flu virus.

The guideline was adopted from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Public Health Medical Director Richard Brostrom earlier estimated that over hundred people in the CNMI may have already contracted the swine flu virus although only six have so far been confirmed through off-island laboratory testing.

There is no data yet if any of the confirmed patients are pregnant.

Pregnant women are more likely to get sick than others and have more serious problems with seasonal flu. These problems may include early labor or severe pneumonia.

"We don't know if this H1N1 flu virus will do the same, but it should be taken very seriously. We don't know

if this virus will cause pregnant women to have a greater chance of getting sick or have serious problems. We also do not know how this virus will affect the baby," DPH noted.

DPH advised pregnant women to call their doctor by phone if they feel they have the flu or have been in contact with someone who had the flu.

As a precautionary measure, they may also call even if they don't have the flu but simply want to ask questions.

The guideline recommended steps on how to protect pregnant women and their baby.

The Flu W.A.T.C.H. steps is being recommended to protect everyone's health and lessen the spread of the flu virus:

■ WASH YOUR HANDS often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizers are also effective.

■ AVOID SICK PEOPLE. Remember other people can take care of sick family members and friends, but only you can take care

of your baby growing inside you.

■ AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, AND MOUTH. Germs spread this way.

■ TEACH others how to prevent the flu

■ COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE. Use a tissue or your sleeve not your hands! Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.

■ HAVE an emergency plan ready and keep a two-week supply of food and emergency supplies and medicine at home.

Symptoms of H1N1

Symptoms are like seasonal flu and include the following: Fever, headache, cough, body aches, sore throat, chills and fatigue, sometimes diarrhea and vomiting

What should I do if I get sick?

■ Pay extra attention to your body and how you are feeling.

■ If you get sick with flu-like symptoms, stay home, limit contact with others, and call your doctor. Your doctor will

decide if testing or treatment is needed. Like regular flu, H1N1 flu may make other medical problems worse.

■ If you are alone at any time, have someone check in with you often if you are feeling ill.

■ If you had close contact with someone who has H1N1 flu or is being treated for exposure to H1N1 flu, wash your hands often and tell your doctor.

When should I get emergency medical care?

If you have any of these signs, seek emergency medical care right away:

■ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath

■ Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen

■ Sudden dizziness

■ Confusion

■ Severe or persistent vomiting

■ Decreased or no movement of your baby

■ A high fever (more than 100.5 F or 38 C) that is not responding to Tylenol®

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

AUGUST 13, 2001

Fund's overseas investments dive

The off-island portfolio of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund went South this June, losing more than \$3.96 million as the total rate-of-return slid to a negative 1.09 percent. As a result, the total losses incurred by the Fund's off-island investments covering the period from October 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, went up a notch to \$38,269,516, representing a negative 9.61 percent rate-of-return from the start of the fiscal year. Based on documents obtained by the Saipan Tribune, the Fund's money market portfolio stood at \$359,976,526, as of June 30 this year-down from May's \$363,939,786-reflecting losses amounting to \$3,963,260.

NMC anticipates higher nonresident enrollment

The Northern Marianas College projects a dramatic increase in the number of enrollees starting this academic year due to the anticipated entry of more nonresident students. The projection came following the NMC's recent revision of tuition policy relating to nonresident students, which is expected to benefit at least 364 non-US students. With an annual enrollment figure of 1,659 students each year since 1994, the NMC anticipates over 364 nonresident students to benefit from the newly-implemented residency policy. NMC officials disclosed that foreign nationals with documented CNMI residency of more than three years are now classified as resident students under the NMC-Board of Regents' new residency policy.

AUGUST 13, 2002

Longer wait for rebates

Finance Secretary Frankie Villanueva said yesterday that the government will not be able to beat the deadline for the release of all rebate checks but, in the same breath, he assured that the entire amount would eventually be paid. As for the tax refund checks, Villanueva said that, after paying out for the scholarship checks, his department will review the government's cash position and will hopefully release a minimum of \$250,000 this week. He did not specify, though, how many checks this will translate to. "We're hoping for more. We'll look at our cash position and then go from there," he said. Under the law, the CNMI government is required to release all rebate checks on or before October 15 but Villanueva said the possibility is strong that the government will not be able to make this deadline.

Bank assets shrink 5.7 percent

In what could be a glaring impact of the controversy that hounded the Bank of Saipan, bank assets shrank 5.7 percent during the period covering March to April 2002, according to a report obtained from the CNMI Department of Commerce. Bank loans fell to \$266.8 million in the second quarter of the year-at the same time when Bank of Saipan was placed under receivership-from \$283 million in the quarter earlier. The 11 percent decline in commercial loans pulled NMI banks' overall loan portfolio from \$148 million to \$131 million, despite a modest growth in consumer borrowings.

AUGUST 13, 2003

Balanced budget achievable

With less than two months to go before the fiscal year ends, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said the CNMI government is close to achieving what has never been done for several years now-a balanced budget. This explains the additional belt-tightening measures that he had issued last week, which included prohibitions against purchases and contracts without his approval, he said. "We want to meet our goal of a balanced budget at the end of the fiscal year and this would be the first time in how many years that we actually spend what we got," said Babauta. "Cutting back on our expenditures is simply [intended] to try and achieve that and we're pretty close to making it."

Over \$3M needed for new classrooms

The Public School System is asking the Legislature to reprogram over \$3.8 million for the immediate construction of new classrooms. Based on its latest assessment, PSS said it urgently needs the money to resolve the overcrowding in four schools: Garapan and Kagman elementary schools, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School, as well as Garapan Head Start. Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero said that 43 new classrooms need to be built to accommodate the current enrollment of 10,790-as of August 5.



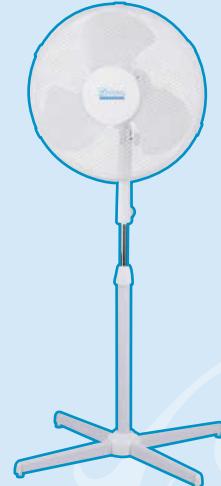
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Opinion

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Swine flu and schools

Stay open. That was the guidance issued Friday by the Obama administration to the nation's schools as they prepare for the fall return of students, and swine flu. Ultimately, it's up to local authorities whether to shut their schools. But the information gathered during and since the initial outbreak in April shows that in many cases it will make more sense to keep school in session.

Fears of swine flu (or H1N1, the scientific moniker preferred by the administration and the pork industry) led to the closure of more than 700 schools across the country in the spring. The guidelines released by the departments of Education and of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention outline three situations when a school closure would be warranted: one, children with special needs are the majority, and swine flu emerges; two, large numbers of students and staff are hit with H1N1; or, three, parents send sick, feverish kids to school.

The CDC also recommends that students and staff return to school 24 hours after their fever is gone, not after an extra week. Schools with students and staff members who appear to have flu-like symptoms are encouraged to send the sick to a separate room until they can be sent home. Students with ill household members should stay home for five days from the day that relative got sick. For more information, go to www.flu.gov.

Concern about swine flu is understandable. It roared to life in Mexico, came to the United States and then made its way to just about every corner of the world. The World Health Organization classifies it as an unstoppable pandemic. So far, it is less deadly than regular flu, which claims 36,000 lives in the United States every year. But researchers are carefully following the virus's progression and potential mutations as it makes its way through the Southern Hemisphere's winter.

As they have since the initial outbreak of swine flu, federal officials are counseling common sense in responding to the next wave of illness. Those who feel sick should stay home. If you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth. And wash your hands frequently or use a hand sanitizer. In the end, you are your best defense against the pandemic's spread.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The public's trust

When I lived in California, I dated a gal who liked to spend money...mostly mine. So when I took her out I would leave my credit card and checkbook at home. I was planning to buy another car so when we drove past a car lot I spotted a brand that I liked, and she persuaded me to stop and take a look. The young salesman used his stock-in-trade sales tricks to pressure me to buy the car; however, there was just one problem (well, actually two). I did not have enough money with me to make a down payment and more importantly, I did not trust the salesperson.

He was the stereotypical car salesman that set off the warning bells inside me to not buy from this person, even though the car was new and it was a quality brand. We were in his cubicle for about an hour, and he could tell that I was not budging, so he left and sent in an older, more experienced salesman.

This person was very friendly and down-to-earth. He established a relationship and asked some questions to understand my needs. My anti-salesperson stance softened, and he persuaded me that the purchase made sense. But I knew I could wiggle out of the sale when I told him I did not have my checkbook with me to make a down payment. I knew that if I could escape the car dealership, I would find some reason not to return later. To my surprise, he said he would follow me to my apartment so I could give him a check. A few minutes later he walked away with a \$1,000 check, and I had a new car and a big loan to pay off.

Trust is a critical element in all human interactions and relationships. Without trust it can be difficult, if not impossible, to come to an understanding or agreement on an issue. Business interactions are greatly multiplied and results are more long-term when the trust level is high.

However, trust has taken a major hit in business and politics. People want to know that a business is sustainable, not just economically, but also ethically and socially. Voters want more transparency from politicians, and to know that they are serving for the good of the people, not just for their own benefit or the benefit of the handlers that helped get them in power.

After the Arthur Andersen accounting firm was implicated in the corrupt practices of Enron, it lost the confidence and trust of their other clients and the public and it became a shell of the company that once existed. When money is involved, trust issues are heightened because of the financial and emotional damage it can cause. *Con* men get their name, not because they were convicted of a crime, but because they are able to gain the confidence and trust of their victims before taking or spending their money.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGRAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



The *Harvard Review* recently surveyed its readers about their level of trust in businesses, and they found that 75 percent of the respondents stated that they had less overall trust in senior management of U.S. companies. Trust in businesses has dropped worldwide to a 10-year low at the end of last year. According to the 10th Annual Edelman Trust Barometer, 77 percent of "informed adults" in the U.S. stated that they trusted businesses less than they had a year earlier.

Politicians are in a particularly interesting position of confidence, because they have gained the trust of a large enough segment of the population to put them into office, and they are responsible to spend public money in an honest and responsible manner. With the recent "bailouts" in the billions of dollars due to the frothing greed of lenders and other careless businesses, it's no wonder that trust has hit bottom. The country's freefall spending into debt oblivion is intended to bolster the economy and give the façade that all is well so the gullible American public will start spending again. But, because of the lack of trust, the public is not buying into it.

Decisions or actions that are out of character with the expected traits of a leader can erode the trust of employees and the public, and diminish not only the credibility of the leader, but that of the institution or government they represent. Locally, we have witnessed several examples of politicians who have lost the public's trust due to self-interest and greedy behavior. Unless a strong effort is made to strengthen the public's trust, confidence will take a slippery slide toward total distrust.

Trust allows leaders to do things better and faster. A high level of trust within an organization helps promote cooperation, risk-taking, and innovation. Morale is usually higher, and turnover is lower. Individuals who are placed in a position of trust, such as heads of organizations and elected leaders, must continually gain the confidence of others through character traits such as fairness, truth, honesty, and integrity. Trust me.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Waiting on the Tooth Fairy: The Retirement Fund's deadbeat creditor

The most recent information I have indicates the Governor has yet to name a group to sit down with the Retirement Fund to work out a settlement timetable for payment of the government's debt to the Fund as required by the recent Superior Court ruling. If a group has been appointed and empowered to make decisions, I haven't read or heard about it.

Former chairman of the Fund's board of trustees, Juan T. Guerero, was quoted in this paper only a couple days ago as expressing frustration over the "inaction" of the central government on an "already-decided issue."

He's not alone in his disappointment and it makes me wonder.

Is it possible the Governor just doesn't see the urgency in moving to halt the rapid financial deterioration of the Fund?

Or speculating even further: Could he be waiting for his advisers to suggest a strategy for a way out of meeting the government's financial obligation to the Fund and its several thousand members? They have been doing this for years.

That is to say, a way out that will continue to permit doing nothing under the erroneous justification that he doesn't have to arrange for payment of the government's debt to the Fund—and while not receiving

the answer (or legal justification) from his advisers that he must so desperately want—simply does nothing—but wait on the tooth fairy.

I'm just wondering.

Or I wonder if he thinks he is above the law and doesn't have to comply with the local court's ruling? The Executive Branch might get away with ignoring a local court but better never try it with the federal court.

Maybe the Governor thinks if he waits long enough and does nothing the problem will go away.

Apparently, that's what's happened with the San Roque Mall, the deteriorating condition of health care at CHC, the absence of reliable 24-hour, islandwide, potable water and on and on—waiting on the "tooth fairy." It's a pattern.

With regard to the recent court ruling, the central government must either "fish or cut bait." By that I mean it must either respect the court and all the retirees and start negotiations with the Fund to commence paying what is owed, or otherwise appeal the ruling of the Superior Court and see where those chips fall.

Further delay is simply going to cost the government more in the end as interest charges continue to accrue. Not a very wise financial



By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

move if you ask me.

But don't take my word for it. Ask any banker or anyone else who has studied Finance 101.

It's already 5 minutes to midnight until the Fund's pension clock runs down. As Scottish historian, critic, and sociological writer Thomas Carlyle observed, "It is one of the illusions, that the present hour is not the critical, decisive hour."

My dear, sweet, Scottish grandmother once remarked, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there waiting for the tooth fairy."

Letters to the Editor

Change

It's been said that the only person that likes change is a 9-month-old baby with a wet diaper.

Unfortunately, the only thing that is truly certain in life is change.

Now why do I mention this?

Saipan has a major animal overpopulation problem that won't go away without change. How do we deal with this?

We can ignore it.

We can get mad at the government because they won't pass laws pertaining to animal control.

We can yell until they open a \$75,000 shelter, and then complain that it's inhumane.

We can point fingers at our neighbors but that only leaves us pointing three fingers back at ourselves.

The one thing we can't do is to expect people to come here from the rest of the world and not say something about this very obvious problem that we choose not to notice.

Adios Uncle Jun

There was this time where I went for a trim at the barbershop. As I awaited my turn, I talked to a person who, like me, was waiting for his turn to get cleaned up. He was no random person that I just met; he was a close relative, my mother's first cousin. We talked about hair, how we had different experiences with growing it out and sorts. We also chatted about other stuff that unfortunately escapes my memory. But after a few minutes, it was his turn to get trimmed, followed not too long after by me.

We met a couple times after that, at different family occasions. We never really conversed, but if I knew that that moment at the barbershop would be one of the last moments I would talk to him, I would probably have thought about other stuff to talk about as he was a man who usually gave good advice. That man was a guy I and other cousins called "Uncle Jun," a man who most of the people in the community knew as Tony Guerrero.

Just like a lot of people who were touched by his personality, I was shocked at his untimely passing last week. It's especially hard for me, as my father's first cousin just recently passed away.

Uncle Jun was someone that a lot of people considered themselves lucky to have as both a relative and friend. Many people have many memories of this man. Most people remember him for all the community work he has done as a member of the Northern Marianas College family, most recently as its president, or for his work as a parent volunteer for various school Parent-Teacher Associations, or during his recent tenure as executive director of the NMI Council of the Humanities. The Uncle Jun I remember was a person who always had something to say about whatever comes to your mind or someone who was always happy to see you. Well-liked, well-educated, fully respected, the traits all of us aspire to have in our older years, traits I aspire to have one of these days.

He wasn't just a relative; he was also my next-door neighbor. Growing up, I was close with his son, so I would hang out on occasion at his house, and during that time I would talk to him about random stuff, whether it be sports, music, whatnot.

As I've gotten older, even though I never visited him and his place as much as I did when I was younger, he was always a presence. When my father died 10 years ago, he was there to lend a hand to his cousin who had become a widow at a young age. He saw me through being a little curious kid, to being the person I am today.

The rest of the world will force this change on us sooner or later. What can we do?

Have one or two dogs and/or cats. Don't have more than you can afford to take care of.

Have them all vaccinated starting at 6-8 weeks of age. This way they don't die and don't need expensive treatment for preventable diseases. If you can't afford this you have too many pets and are part of the problem.

Quit looking to the government to take over your responsibilities. Your pets are *your* responsibilities, not the veterinarians', not your neighbors' and not the government's.

Once your pets have finished their vaccination series, have them spayed or neutered. Yes, you can afford this if you limit the number of dogs and cats you have.

Keep your dogs and cats confined to your house/yard. Don't let them run loose to annoy your neighbors, and kill the wildlife on Saipan.

I know I'm asking a lot relative to change.

I'm asking you to save yourself money, and time, and effort.

Change because you want to, and because you see the need, not

because someone makes you do it with legislation or by refusing to come to Saipan. That's not really change, that's coercion.

We are smarter than this problem, and we can choose to make this happen.

Ed Tudor, DVM

Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Condolences

I was so saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Rita Inos, former commissioner of the Public School System, on Monday Aug. 10, 2009. I will always remember her kindness and her utmost dedication to serving the students of the CNMI.

Dr. Inos had a profound impact on both my personal life as well as my professional career. When she signed the contract to bring me onboard PSS from Texas in late 2003, she essentially changed the course of my life. The opportunities that were afforded me as a result of my behavior specialist position within PSS allowed me to partner with educational and mental health professionals to positively touch the lives of students.

Dr. Inos recognized the need to provide nonviolent crisis intervention to PSS educators and staff to promote a healthier and safer learning environment when she approved the grant (that PSS school psychologist Mary McGee and I submitted) to offer nonviolent crisis intervention training. Thanks to Dr. Inos, we were able to provide training that helped support the mental health, academic, and social learning needs of CNMI students and educators within PSS.

Although I am now back home in Dallas, Texas, on the other side of the world, my heart aches for the family and friends of Dr. Inos. I want to offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Inos, the PSS family, and the CNMI community. Please take comfort in knowing that Dr. Inos made a positive impact all over the world and will be missed.

Steve Nguyen

Dallas, Texas

Safety first

It's that time of the year when we are being bombarded with political signs along the intersections. I get nervous just thinking about my safety and others. Just a friendly reminder to all concerned parties: Please be considerate when erecting your signs especially at intersections.

I have had my share of near collisions at intersections during political seasons. The driver's view of oncoming vehicles is obscured to the point where we practically have to stick our vehicles halfway into the road to see oncoming cars. I have no problem with these signs, but they pose more hazard to the public than the message they want to convey.

Tip? I would suggest to the erectors to get in a car by the intersections, preferably an Accent since I drive one, and see for themselves that the motorists' views are not blocked by the signs. Those who drive the same car as I do should know that it's a pain to try to exit the intersections safely.

Personally, I don't need too many political signs to tell me who to vote for. I already did my study and I'm happy to say my decisions are made.

Josie Kaipat

Kagman II, Saipan

L.J. Castro
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 73
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 7
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 60 ▼ 54
Beijing	Hot	▲ 100 ▼ 73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲ 90 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
London	Rain	▲ 72 ▼ 57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 64
Manila	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 63 ▼ 52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 78
New York	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 70
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 60
Pusan	Showers	▲ 92 ▼ 71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 55
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 68
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 92 ▼ 81
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 72

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
6:39 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
1:05 PM Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
6:11 PM Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	Today	11:20 PM	11:42 AM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM	Friday		12:41 AM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM	Saturday	12:13 AM	1:43 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM	Sunday	1:11 AM	2:46 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM	Monday	2:15 AM	3:47 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 12:20pm 1, 7 via ROP
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily
NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily
NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO
NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily
C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6
via KIX
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN
OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/60

13 killed in Papua New Guinea plane crash

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SYDNEY (AP)—All 13 people on board a chartered plane that crashed en route to a tourist region of Papua New Guinea are dead, Australia's prime minister said Wednesday.

Papua New Guinea officials informed Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith that no survivors were found in the wreckage, which had been discovered in the rugged Kokoda region earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd told parliament.

The plane, carrying 11 pas-

sengers and two crew, vanished Tuesday morning in bad weather on approach to an airport nestled in the Kokoda region. Nine Australians, one Japanese and three Papua New Guineans were on board. Two of the Australians killed in the crash were a father and a daughter, Rudd said.

"There is a horrible tragedy involved when families send off their loved ones for what they expect to be the experience of a lifetime, only for it to turn into a tragedy such as this," Rudd said.

The twin-engine plane left the capital of Port Moresby en route

to an airport near the Pacific island nation's Kokoda Track, a mountainous 60-mile (100-kilometer) trail. The plane's crew radioed air traffic controllers as it was approaching the airstrip, but the aircraft never landed, said Allen Tyson, a spokesman for Airlines PNG.

Eight Australian tourists and an Australian tour guide had planned to walk the trail as part of a trek organized by the adventure tour company No Roads Expeditions, the company said in a statement. Another guide from Papua New Guinea also was on board, the company said.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to LJ Boy Reyes, who is celebrating his 5th birthday today! We hope you enjoy your day! We love you and wish for many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, little brother Louie Boy, AJ and JJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Leticia "Eberdil" Taeko Skang Ngewak!. May all your wishes come true and may the dear Lord bless you today and always! Greetings come from your loving family!

Happy birthday grandma Maria Salas! We miss you. Greetings come from your family in Boise and Ramz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan to join Great Nationwide Kiss-In event

Thousands of supporters of equality for same-sex couples are joining together in over 50 U.S. and Canadian cities and towns, including Saipan, to take part in the Great Nationwide Kiss-In.

Saipan's event is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009, at 4am, to coincide with the other cities' schedule, which is Aug. 15.

Local resident Jonathan Pangelinan Cabrera joins gay-rights bloggers David Badash (of The New Civil Rights Movement and The Bilerico Project), David Mailloux (of DYM SUM), and Willow Witte, co-founder and director of the grassroots LGBT organization Join The Impact to announce a "kiss-in" event on Saipan.

The Great Nationwide Kiss-In was formed in response to recent events in three different U.S. cities, where gay or lesbian couples have been harassed, detained or arrested for the simple act of kissing in a public place. Badash, Mailloux, and Witte created this event as a peaceful celebration of everyone's right to publicly acknowledge their loved ones—lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or straight—with a kiss.

Badash's original vision for the event will have thousands of couples—gay and straight—showing this simple, innocent form of affection for one another in popular public locations throughout the United States. Mailloux has supported that vision since day one.

"It's truly shocking that—in 2009, with homosexuality decriminalized throughout the United States, and same-

The LGBT community should be allowed that same right without concern or consequences."

Badash, Mailloux, and Witte all agree that the Great Nationwide Kiss-In should be as non-controversial as possible.

"These events are meant to be fun and emphasize the beauty of love and simple affection between two people," Witte said.

Each event will be specific to the community organizing it.

Some will feature music and dancing, some will feature slam poets or other performers, and others will have guest speakers, including local politicians and community leaders who support the simple act of publicly kissing the one you love.

The Saipan Kiss-In event will start at 3:30am and will be held at the Minachom AtDAO pavilion, across the Ada gym. For more information, contact Jonathan Pangelinan Cabrera at jone51@gmail.com or (670) 9897050. For additional information about the national event, feel free to contact the national coordinators at greatnationwidetkissin@gmail.com.

ON THE NET

<http://greatnationwidetkissin.com>

sex marriage legalized in six states—we are still seeing law enforcement and other individuals harassing and detaining homosexual couples," Mailloux said. "In two of the three incidents, the couples only kissed on the cheek. There's nothing inappropriate about that. There's nothing illegal about that. Kissing is a beautiful thing; it's a timeless show of affection for our loved ones. People kiss on the cheek or on the lips every single day, in any number of public places—airports, subways, sidewalks, coffee shops.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again on Aug. 14, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm.

There will be vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will also be there.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman.

Interested vendors can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for applications. (PR)

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. (PR)

SSHS reminders to incoming students

All students that have been evaluated and graduated from junior high are entered into the system but they are still required to register. You are not officially enrolled if your parents/legal guardians did not submit a registration form. Forms can be picked up from the Counseling Office and submitted ASAP for your child to be enrolled in SSHS.

All returning students that attended last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school before picking up one's class schedule. You will not be permitted to remain on campus.

Class schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling Office as follows:

- Seniors (12th Grade) Aug. 20 8am-11am
1pm-3:30pm
- Juniors (11th Grade) Aug. 21 8am-11am
1pm-3:30pm
- Sophomores (10th Grade) Aug. 22 8am-11am
1pm-3:30pm

9th Grade student orientation and class schedule pick up will be held on two different dates to accommodate parents/guardian work schedules. Please attend only one session (with parents or legal guardians):

- Aug. 25 9am-12pm
- Aug. 26 1pm-4pm

All transfer and new students coming from private or public school in grades 10th, 11th and 12th are required to attend the orientation on Aug. 27, from 9am to 12pm with their parents or legal guardians. No students will be allowed without a parent or guardian in attendance.

If you have any questions about registration or orientation, call 664-4000 or 237-3713. (PR)

Town hall meeting at Rota Roundhouse

The first town hall meeting hosted by Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) on Rota today, Aug. 13, will be held at the Roundhouse from 6pm to 8pm, instead of the Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria as announced earlier.

All residents of Rota are encouraged to attend this informative community forum at the Roundhouse and ask questions directly to their first U.S. congressman.

Sablan will be discussing his first months representing the Northern Mariana Islands in the Washington, taking questions about issues important to NMI residents, and asking for public input on legislation currently before Congress.

Some of the issues expected to be discussed are expanding educational opportunities for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, the transition to federal immigration, energy alternatives for the Commonwealth, environmental protection, and the services that the Congressman's office can provide directly to constituents. (PR)

MHS reminder for freshmen

Incoming freshmen of the Marianas High School

are being reminded to turn in their "School Entrance Health Certificate" (blue health immunization certificate) to the MHS Registrar's Office between 8am-4pm, Mondays-Fridays. For questions and concerns, call 237-3206. (PR)

SVES sets Open House, parent orientation

The San Vicente Elementary School is inviting all parents to its upcoming Open House (Parent Orientation) on Friday, Sept. 4, from 9am to 12pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and receive the requested supply list for the coming school year. Orientations will be held by grade level in the following classrooms:

Kindergarten	I-24
1st Grade	K-26
2nd Grade	E-14
3rd Grade	K-31
4th Grade	B-7
5th Grade	A-2
6th Grade	A-9

Casting call for new FOA play

Friends of the Arts is holding auditions for their first show of the 2009-2010 season, Arsenic and Old Lace. The cast includes parts for 14 adults—11 men and 3 women. The show is scheduled to be performed on Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, and 25.

The play is a comedy that involves a theater-hating drama critic who finds himself having to deal with his crazy, homicidal family—two spinster aunts who have taken to poisoning lonely old men, an uncle that believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, and a murderous brother—and the local police.

Auditions will be held this Thursday and Friday, Aug. 13 and 14, from 6pm to 8pm and again on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 2pm to 4pm in the Napu Room at PIC. For more information and to keep up on all Friends of the Arts news and events, join the "Friends of the Arts, Saipan" page on Facebook or contact us by email at FOA.Saipan@gmail.com. (PR)

MHS Class of '70 sets meeting

The Marianas High School Class Reunion of 1970 is having its monthly meeting today, Aug. 13, 2009 at 6:30pm at McDonald's in Chalan Laulau.

All MHS Class of 1970 and those who have attended Hopwood Jr. Sr. High, but graduated abroad are also invited to attend. For more information, contact John Camacho at 234-3182/4. (PR)

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009 at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend.

For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmci@yahoo.com. (PR)

John Gonzales Live schedule

The public is invited to watch and learn about newsmaking issues on John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 from 7pm to 8pm. Replays are Sunday and Monday the week after on KSPN Ch. 2 from 7-8 p.m. You can participate by text (285-6382), calling (287-4230), or e-mail (johngonzales@pticom.com).

■ Aug. 12: To Keep or Suspend Zoning: The Saipan Zoning Law In Depth (Guests: Zoning Board chair Henry S. Hofschneider, Zoning Board member Herminia M. Fusco, and Zoning Administrator Victor Barrett)

■ Aug. 26: Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Mental Health, & Tobacco Cessation Programs (Guests: Reyna Malone Saures, CGC Prevention Division; Crispin M. Sablan, Clinical Treatment Division; Rebecca C. Robles, Tobacco Cessation & Quitline).

Business

Economy may be improving, but jobs slow to come

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers who have cut jobs over the past year are in no hurry to start hiring again just because the recession is tapering off.

From a North Carolina machine maker to an Oregon heating-and-cooling company, small business owners say they need to see several months of rising sales before they start adding staff.

Because labor is the biggest expense for most companies, that kind of caution is typical at the end of recessions. After the last one, in 2001, unemployment kept rising and didn't peak

until June 2003—19 months into the economic recovery.

This time around, some economists say unemployment may not return to healthy levels until 2013. Companies have been slashing workers' hours, squeezing more work out of the employees who are left and relying on cheaper temporary staffers to fill the gaps.

In North Carolina, a company called Power Curbers, which makes barriers and curbs for subdivision, is finally breaking even after shedding 35 percent of its staff. The owner, Dyke

Messinger, plans no more cuts.

Yet he is wary of adding to the staff, which now numbers about 80. First he wants to see new orders.

"When you look out and see that the country has stabilized, that gives you confidence that you can hold on to everybody that you've got," he said. "But we will be very hesitant to hire until business turns up."

Employers wiped out 247,000 jobs in July, far fewer than any other month this year. The economy shrank in the second quarter at a much slower pace.



In this June 4, 2009 file photo, people look for jobs at the Los Angeles Mission Career Fair.

GM says new Volt could get 230 mpg in city driving

WARREN, Mich. (AP)—General Motors said Tuesday its Chevrolet Volt electric car could get 230 mpg in city driving, making it the first American vehicle to achieve triple-digit fuel economy if that figure is confirmed by federal regulators.

But when the four-door family sedan hits showrooms late next year, its efficiency will come with a steep sticker price: \$40,000.

Still, the Volt's fuel efficiency in the city would be four times more than the popular Toyota Prius hybrid, the most efficient car now sold in the U.S.

Most automakers are working on similar designs, but GM would offer the first mainstream plug-in with the Volt, which seats four and was introduced at the 2007 Detroit auto show.

The Volt will join a growing fleet of cars and trucks powered by systems other than internal combustion engines.

Unlike the Prius and other traditional hybrids, the Volt is powered by an electric motor and a battery pack with a 40-mile range. After that, a small internal combustion engine kicks in to generate electricity for a total range of 300 miles. The battery pack can be recharged from a

standard home outlet.

Hybrids use a small internal combustion engine combined with a high-powered battery to boost fuel efficiency. Toyota's Prius—which starts at about \$22,000—gets 51 mpg in the city and 48 mpg on the highway.

The number of all-electric vehicles available to U.S. consumers remains limited. The Tesla Roadster, a high-end sports car with a range of 224 miles, is perhaps the best known. But its \$100,000-plus price tag keeps

it out of reach of all but the wealthiest drivers.

The company is working on an electric family sedan that will be priced considerably less.

Nissan Motor Co. unveiled its first electric car, the Leaf, earlier this month. Nissan said the vehicle will go on sale in Japan, the U.S. and Europe next year.

Edmunds.com, an auto Web site, cast doubt on whether drivers can expect 230 mpg from the Volt since fuel efficiency also depends on driving style.



GM President and CEO Fritz Henderson addresses the media at GM's Tech Center in Warren, Mich. during a news conference regarding the Chevy Volt's 230 composite MPG rating Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009.

And businesses are seeing real results of a warming economy. But that doesn't translate into job creation. William Dunkel-

berg, chief economist for the National Federation of Independent Business, said a survey of small businesses found only

about 7 percent of them added to their work forces in the second quarter of the year, while 24 percent cut jobs.

Emerging markets expert Mark Mobius to speak at regional conference in Manila

Dr. Mark Mobius, one of the leading world experts on investments and a regular commentator on Bloomberg and CNBC, is set to deliver the keynote address during the prestigious annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held this October in Manila. The conference is organized by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies.

Known for his extensive research and in-depth experience in investing in emerging markets, Dr. Mobius is currently the executive chairman of Templeton Asset Management Ltd and lead portfolio manager of several Templeton Emerging Markets Funds. He was named one of the "Top 100 Most Powerful and Influential People" by *Asiamoney* magazine in 2006. He received his Ph.D in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

According to Dan Roland, executive director of APAFS, "Emerging markets is an asset class that has gained a lot of attention recently for its performance. More of our institutional fund members are looking at the impact this mandate



Mobius

may have on their portfolio."

APAFS chairman Gerard Cruz said, "Having Dr. Mobius speak about emerging markets is like having Bill Gates speak about the future of computer systems. Powerful people pay to listen to his advice, we are fortunate to have him address our group."

The annual Pacific Region Investment Conference will be held in Manila for the fourth time in its 10-year history. It is a highly-esteemed investment conference where financial executives and professionals as well as regional public and private benefit funds and other institutional investors converge to learn from world-class experts and gain regional understanding of current economic issues.

The 9th Pacific Region Investment Conference is slated to be held in Oct. 8 and 9 this year. For updates, inquiries and interested parties, log on to www.apafs.org.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is a non-profit educational association with the aim of providing educational forums for fiduciaries in the region. It was formed by board members and trustees of institutional funds throughout Asia in 2000. (APAFS)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Energy prices slump after Labor Department report

Energy prices slumped Tuesday on a Labor Department report that suggested consumer spending, a major economic driver, may be depressed for some time as companies cut back. Benchmark crude for September delivery fell \$1.15 to settle at \$69.45 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The national average for retail gas fell for the first time in three weeks. The average pump price fell two-tenths of a penny overnight to \$2.643, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. That's about 8 cents higher than last week but around \$1.17 cheaper than at this point last year. (AP)

Studies: New osteoporosis drug cuts fracture risk

A first-of-its-kind osteoporosis drug lowers the risk of bone fractures better than some existing treatments, two studies suggest, and could soon add a more expensive but easier option to the booming market. Amgen Inc. will stress that only two shots of its genetically engineered denosumab, which could be approved for sale this fall, are needed each year. That's important because many patients stop taking other drugs due to side effects or frequent dosing. Wall Street sees denosumab as a potential blockbuster crucial to Amgen. But with many cheaper, heavily advertised treatments, doctors view its expected high cost as a drawback.

Productivity rises in 2Q while labor costs plunge

WASHINGTON (AP)—Productivity surged in the spring by the largest amount in almost six years while labor costs plunged at the fastest pace in nine years. The results point to a recession losing steam, but they do not bode well for the unemployed or those forced to work shorter weeks who were hoping for more hours. The

Labor Department said Tuesday that productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, rose at an annual rate of 6.4 percent in the April-June quarter, while unit labor costs dropped 5.8 percent. Both results were greater than economists expected. Businesses producing more with fewer employees means millions of unemployed Americans likely will continue to face a dismal job market.

Ex-Madoff CFO pleads guilty in court in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—The former chief financial officer for Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiracy, admitting he helped Madoff carry out a massive fraud that cost thousands of people billions of dollars by lying to investors and testifying falsely when it seemed the fraud might be discovered. "I was loyal to him. I ended up being loyal to a terrible, terrible fault," Frank DiPascali said as he pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Manhattan to charges including securities fraud, falsifying records and international money laundering. Afterward, U.S. District Judge Richard Sullivan surprised the defendant, prosecutors and a defense lawyer by ordering DiPascali jailed, a rarity for someone in a white-collar case who had pleaded guilty with a cooperation deal.

Stocks fall as traders await Fed's take on economy

NEW YORK (AP)—A recurrence of investors' anxiety about the economy gave Wall Street its biggest loss in five weeks. The major indexes fell 1 percent Tuesday as investors feared that the market's steep gains in the past month could unravel if the economy doesn't show more signs of strengthening. Warnings about the health of banks and uneasiness ahead of the Federal Reserve's economic statement Wednesday led investors to dump financial stocks and wade into defensive areas like consumer staples companies and government debt.

Nation

Lawmakers face angry crowds on health care



Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., watches as a participant attending a town hall meeting in Lebanon, Pa. is restrained by another participant on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009.

2 bodies found in Hudson River plane wreckage

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP)—Recovery workers on the murky, fast-moving Hudson River on Tuesday salvaged their first piece of a small plane that collided with a tour helicopter, but it wasn't clear whether they were closer to pulling the bodies of the last two of the nine victims from the depths.

The plane was found the day before in about 60 feet of water, and divers said they could see a body inside; it could not immediately be determined whether the red-and-white section of plane removed Tuesday included the body.

Nine people died in the collision Saturday; besides the body in the plane, seven bodies have been recovered and one is still missing.

The recovery effort was deliberate, as divers contended with tricky currents, low visibility and the need to carefully lift the wreckage so potential clues weren't disturbed.

Two members of the New York Police Department dive team went into the water about 3:20 p.m. Divers carried a large flat strap, 6 to 8 inches wide, with a large metal shackle on one end,

while a crew aboard a second dive boat fed out two cables. Within a few minutes, an Army Corps of Engineers boat equipped with a large crane moved into position near the site of the wreckage.

Almost two hours later, the partial wreckage was painstakingly hoisted to the surface.

The Piper airplane that collided with the helicopter in the congested airspace between New Jersey and Manhattan was heavily damaged and waterlogged, making recovery delicate, federal safety officials said.

Officials see rise in militia groups across US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Militia groups with gripes against the government are regrouping across the country and could grow rapidly, according to an organization that tracks such trends.

The stress of a poor economy and a liberal administration led by a black president are among the causes for the recent rise, the report from the Southern Poverty Law Center says. Conspiracy theories about a secret Mexican plan to reclaim the Southwest are also growing amid the public debate about illegal immigration.

Bart McEntire, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, told SPLC researchers that this is the most growth he's seen in more than a decade.

"All it's lacking is a spark," McEntire said in the report.

It's reminiscent of what was seen in the 1990s—right-wing militias, people ideologically against paying taxes and so-called "sovereign citizens" are popping up in large numbers, according to the report to be released Wednesday. The SPLC is a nonprofit civil rights

group that, among other activities, investigates hate groups.

Last October, someone from the Ohio Militia posted a recruiting video on YouTube, billed as a "wake-up call" for America. It's been viewed more than 60,000 times.

"Things are bad, things are real bad, and it's going to be a lot worse," said the man on the video, who did not give his name. "Our country is in peril."

The man is holding an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, and he encourages viewers to buy one.

JFK's sister Eunice Shriver dies at 88



In this Aug. 13, 1970 file photo, Eunice Shriver, left, and Illinois Lieutenant-Governor Paul Simon watch as participating members of the International Special Olympics parade at Soldier Field in Chicago.

She was also the sister of President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy; the wife of 1972 vice presidential candidate R. Sargent Shriver; the mother of former NBC

newswoman Maria Shriver; and the mother-in-law of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Shriver was credited with helping to

LEBANON, Pa. (AP)—Jeers and taunts drowned out Democrats calling for a health care overhaul at town halls Tuesday, and one lawmaker said a swastika was spray-painted at his office as debate turned to noisy confrontation over President Barack Obama's plan. The president himself was treated more respectfully.

The bitter sessions underscored the challenge for the administration as it tries to win over an increasingly skeptical public on the costly and far-reaching task of revamping the nation's health care system. Desperate to stop a hardening opposition, the White House created a Web site to dispel what it says are smears and House Democrats set up a health care "war room" out of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer's office to help lawmakers answer questions.

At a crowded community college in Pennsylvania, Republican-turned-Democratic Sen. Arlen Specter heard from speaker after speaker who accused him of trampling on their constitutional rights, adding to the federal deficit or allowing government bureaucrats to take over health care.

"You'll be gone, by God the bureaucrats will still be here," said one man.

"My children and grandchildren are going to pay for this," said another.

"One day God will stand before

"you and judge you!" shouted a man before security guards approached and he left the room.

Specter gamely tried to explain his positions—and on occasion mediate among shouting constituents—saying he wouldn't vote for a bill that adds to the deficit. He also said he wouldn't support a bill that extends coverage to illegal immigrants. None of the bills in Congress would provide health insurance to illegal immigrants.

One woman tried to make it personal for Specter, alleging that the Democrats' plan would not provide care to a man in his 70s with cancer, like Specter had.

"You're here because of the plan we have now," she said.

Specter, 79, who has battled cancer twice since 2005, showed some heat at that.

"Well, you're just not right," he said. He called her claim a "vicious, malicious" rumor.

The passions of the crowd illustrated the problems for Democratic lawmakers around the country as they try to use the monthlong August recess to promote Obama's agenda. There's not a single plan to promote, which Specter later told reporters made his job harder, along with the complexity of the issue. The House bill is more than 1,000 pages.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Boy saves sister from NY home fire; 3 dead

CENTRAL ISLIP, New York (AP)—Police say a 6-year-old boy rescued his 2-year-old sister from a fire at a Long Island house where three adults later were found dead. They say the boy told them he awoke and smelled smoke and he and his sister began coughing so he led her outside. They say two women and one man found in the burned Central Islip house had been shot but it's unclear if they died from gunshot wounds or the fire, ruled an arson. Detective Lt. Jack Fitzpatrick says firefighters were called Tuesday morning. The two-story house was in flames. Neighbor Jessie Scott says the house burned "like a matchbox." The three adults were found in a back bedroom. One lived in the home. The boy and girl are doing OK. They've been taken to a hospital.

Wis. girl, 13, charged in fatal stabbing over milk

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A long-simmering feud between a 13-year-old girl and her step-grandfather erupted after the man allegedly poured her milk down the drain, prompting the girl to fatally stab him in the neck, court documents said. Labrina T. Brown, who allegedly threatened Robert A. Moon with knives before, told an officer who responded, "I killed him," and said to a neighbor, "I'm not afraid to go to jail for this," according to the criminal complaint against her. The Milwaukee girl is charged as an adult with first-degree reckless homicide, which carries a maximum penalty of 60 years in prison. At an initial appearance Tuesday in Milwaukee County Children's Court, she was ordered held on \$150,000 cash bond.

Slain US couple had second safe with \$164,000

PENSACOLA, Florida (AP)—The suspects who robbed and killed a Florida couple in July made off with a safe that contained few valuables, but missed a second safe that held \$164,000 in cash, a lawyer for the victims' family acknowledged Tuesday. Byrd and Melanie Billings were shot to death July 9. Surveillance cameras captured men dressed as ninjas and wearing black masks entering the couple's sprawling house, stealing a safe and leaving in less than four minutes. Family attorney Robert Beasley said in a statement that a second safe was not stolen and contained the money, but no drugs, guns or other items to suggest illegal activity. It's not known if the suspects were looking for the second safe, Beasley said. The one they left with had little in financial value.

Families: American hikers entered Iran by mistake

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Three American hikers detained in Iran for nearly two weeks entered the country by mistake and their families are hoping for a quick resolution that will reunite them with their children, the families said in a statement Tuesday. Joshua Fattal, freelance journalist Shane Bauer and Bauer's girlfriend, Sarah Shourd, were hiking near a waterfall on a mountain in Iraq's self-ruled Kurdish region on July 31 when they accidentally crossed the border into Iran, according to family members. They contacted a colleague to say they had entered Iran by mistake and were surrounded by troops, according to a Kurdish official in Iraq.

Asia

Police: Hard to know Taiwan village mudslide toll



In this image released by the Taiwan Military News Agency, soldiers struggling to make their way across rapids to trapped residents from the flooded village of Shao Lin, Taiwan, Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009.

CISHAN, Taiwan (AP)—Police said Wednesday that there is no way to know for sure how many people remain buried in the catastrophic mudslide that struck a remote mountain village in Taiwan over the weekend when a typhoon lashed the region.

Survivors fear that hundreds are dead in the southern village of Shao Lin, and Cishan police chief Lee Chin-lung said efforts to pluck survivors from the village were continuing for

US man in Suu Kyi trial was just trying to help
him moaning but let him in only after dawn.

Then Suu Kyi herself told him to get out, allowing him to stay two nights when he complained of ill health instead of kicking him out onto the street. She later explained she had known so many colleagues who were unfairly arrested and would not wish that fate on him.

The bizarre and unexpected visit led to a trial in which Suu Kyi was sentenced Tuesday to 18 more months of detention on a charge of violating her house arrest, and 53-year-old Yettaw

Taiwan. It dumped as much as 80 inches (two meters) of rain on the island before moving on to China, where authorities evacuated 1.5 million people and some 10,000 homes were destroyed.

Shao Lin and its surroundings remain cut off from the outside world. Rains from the typhoon washed out a nearby bridge, and since Sunday the only access has been by military helicopter.

Suu Kyi's house arrest for her pro-democracy activities had been expected to be over at the end of May. But Yettaw's visit gave the ruling military junta a pretext—though they might have found one anyway—to keep her detained through a general election planned for next year.

Yettaw had spent the final days before the verdict in a hospital for epileptic seizures, isolated and under guard. His sentence shocked his family.

members of Noordin's family came back negative, said Eddy Saparwoko, head of the national police victim identification unit. Noordin, a Malaysian, has been blamed for a series of deadly al-Qaida-funded attacks in Indonesia since 2003 and is the prime suspect in twin suicide hotel bombings in Jakarta on July 17 that killed seven people.

Thais reject US request to extradite arms dealer

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai court on Tuesday rejected a U.S. request to extradite a Russian arms dealer who allegedly sold weapons to dictators and warlords around the world, raising the prospect that he could be freed by the weekend. The unexpected ruling in favor of

Viktor Bout was welcomed by Russia. The United States, which had mounted the sting operation that led to his arrest at a Bangkok hotel, said it was "mystified" by the court's decision. Bangkok Criminal Court Judge Chittakorn Pattanasiri said Thai prosecutors have 72 hours to indicate whether to appeal, and, if not, Bout will be set free. If an appeal is filed, Bout will be held pending further proceedings.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US, NATO deaths from Afghan bombings spike 6-fold

KABUL (AP)—U.S. and NATO deaths from roadside and suicide bomb blasts in Afghanistan soared six-fold in July compared with the same month last year, as militants detonated the highest number of bombs of the eight-year war, figures released Tuesday showed. Three U.S. Marines and a Polish soldier died in the latest attacks, setting August on course to surpass the record 75 deaths U.S. and NATO troops suffered from all causes in July.

DNA shows body of slain militant not Noordin Top

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A suspected militant slain during a 16-hour siege with counterterrorism forces last week was not Indonesia's most-wanted militant Noordin Muhammad Top, police said Wednesday. Tests comparing the body's DNA with

trial of Tan Zuoren, an activist charged with subversion.

Chinese police detain supporters of quake critic

BEIJING (AP)—A high-profile Chinese government critic said he and 11 others were being detained in a hotel Wednesday by police to prevent them from attending the trial of an activist investigated the deaths of schoolchildren in last year's earthquake. Avant-garde artist Ai Weiwei said police in the southwestern city of Chengdu also roughed up him and one of the other supporters who had traveled to the city to attend the

World

\$65 million in jewelry stolen from London store

LONDON (AP)—Two well-dressed thieves walked into a London Bond Street jewelry store last week and, after brandishing handguns at shop workers, made off with \$65 million worth of gems in one of Britain's biggest jewelry heists, police said Tuesday.

Security camera footage released by police shows two men in crisp suits entering Graff Diamonds' flagship store Thursday afternoon. It was the third time a Graff store in London had been targeted in a high-profile raid in the past six years.

The men stole dozens of high-end rings, bracelets, necklaces and watches worth 40 million pounds, or \$65 million, and fired two gunshots into the ground as they escaped in a series of getaway cars, police said. No one was hurt.

It was among the biggest heists in British history—far outstripping the 1963 Great Train Robbery in which 2 million pounds were lost.

Last week's theft, however, was topped by the 2006 robbery of 53 million pounds in cash from a security company



Two security guards standing outside Graff Diamonds store in New Bond Street, London, following an armed robbery Thursday Aug. 6, 2009.

depot in southern England, and was rivaled by the 1987 theft of an estimated 40 million pounds from the Knightsbridge Safe Deposit Center in London.

Police declined to rank Thursday's robbery, saying only that it was one of the country's biggest. Items stolen included a pair of white diamond double hoop earrings, a flowing flower necklace with yellow diamond petals, a platinum white Marquise diamond ring and a Chronograff watch,

police said.

Graff's store, a classical stucco and stone town house in London's jewelry district, has been targeted by thieves in the past.

The same store lost jewelry worth 23 million pounds in 2003 when it was robbed by jewel thief Nebojsa Denic, a Kosovar Serb and a member of the notorious gang of Balkan robbers known as "the Pink Panthers." Denic was caught and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Iran's opposition verifies 69 deaths in unrest

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's opposition said Tuesday it had verified the deaths of 69 people in the two months of unrest since the disputed presidential election, confirming suspicions that the death toll was at least more than double the official figure.

Human rights groups have said throughout the crisis that they believe the death toll in the crackdown on protesters is far higher than the official Ira-

nian count. But establishing a detailed picture of the number of casualties and their identities has been made difficult by restrictions on journalists and a reported prohibition on public mourning ceremonies.

A senior aide to Mir Hossein Mousavi, the opposition leader who claims he was the true winner of the June 12 presidential vote, delivered a list of the dead to parliament.

Ex-Nazi officer guilty in WWII massacre in Italy

MUNICH (AP)—Gino Massetti was only 15 when Nazi troops rounded him up with 10 other Italian civilians and forced them into a barn in Tuscany before blowing it up—a massacre carried out in revenge after partisans killed two soldiers.

Though Massetti, the lone survivor, couldn't identify who ordered the slaughter, former Wehrmacht Lt. Josef Scheungraber was convicted Tuesday of murder based on circumstantial evidence that put him at the

scene as the ranking officer. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Scheungraber's lawyer, Klaus Goebel, said he would appeal what he called "a scandalous verdict." The 90-year-old Scheungraber declined to comment.

Though witnesses in such cases are rare and memories have faded over more than six decades since World War II, the case underscores that it is still possible to win a conviction against Nazi war criminals, experts say.

Murder for ratings? Brazil cops suspect TV host

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—In one murder after another, the "Canal Livre" TV show had an uncanny knack for being first on the scene, gathering graphic footage of the victim.

Too uncanny, say police, who are investigating the show's host, state legislator and accused drug trafficker Wallace Souza, on suspicion of commissioning at least five of the murders to boost his ratings and prove his claim that

"Even old age cannot protect one from prosecution," Norbert Frei, a historian at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, told Bayerischen Rundfunk radio.

An American attorney who served as the U.S. Justice Department's lead lawyer in the 2002 case against John Demjanjuk said the verdict has important implications for the German trial of the retired autoworker accused of being a guard at the Sobibor concentration camp.

get rid of his rivals and increase the audience of the TV show."

Souza's lawyer, Francisco Balieiro, said his client vehemently denies the accusations. Balieiro claimed political opponents were trying to smear him with false accusations, and that the only witness is a disgraced police officer hoping for leniency in nine murders he is charged with.

"There is not one piece of material proof in these accusations," Balieiro said.

Environment

Helping in the fight to preserve the islands' environment

By JAMIE FEJERAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa Adai! My name is Jamie Fejeran. I am a 2008 graduate of Northern Marianas Academy and Northern Marianas College. Currently, I am a senior Social Science major at Washington State University with a primary focus in Sociology and a secondary focus in Women's Studies.

This summer, I held the position of Community Outreach and Education at the Division of Environmental Quality through the Coral Reef Initiative internship program. From the beginning of the internship, I have worked in various projects at DEQ. I was assigned to work with Reina Camacho and Jim Callier.

I contributed to various community outreach and education activities including the Pesticide Program, ECO Camp outreach, EPA grant management, reef flats, the Green Campaign, on-site pesticide inspections, and numerous informational presentation and flier constructions.

My internship with the Pesticide Program was primarily focused on specific outreach actions. For the Pesticide Amnesty, I informed businesses throughout the island of its purpose and advantages by phone, fax, and face-to-face interactions. Along with the amnesty, I observed various import/release on-site inspections of pesticides. By doing this, I learned the processes involved in the use, importation, and distribution of pesticides.

Also, I made various informational fliers for the home, grocery place, businesses, and farms. These fliers explain the basic and most crucial points about pesticides that people of the CNMI should know and practice to ensure the safety of our people and protect our resources. The future of our islands lies within the younger generation. As a way to hopefully prevent and avoid the deterioration of our islands, informing and educating the youth of our islands is a step. I made an outreach power point presentation and a few activity sheets for the children at ECO Camp at Marianas Trekking.

Join the movement to protect islands' natural resources

Plastic bags are a major environmental problem, especially when they end up in our marine waters, leading to the suffocation of marine mammals and sea birds. Do your part by helping to reduce the use of plastic bags. The Division of Environmental Quality "green team" will be at the Joeten Shopping Center in Kagman tomorrow, Aug. 14, 2009, from 6pm to 8pm, talking to customers about the dangers of plastic bags and handing out ecobags, an environmentally friendlier alternative to carry groceries in.

This outreach event is part of the Green Business Initiative, a campaign focused towards influencing businesses and communities to adopt a "greener" frame of mind. Its target is to promote eco-friendly choices, habits, and life-styles by increasing the islands' "green" consciousness. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jamie Fejeran, right, a Community Outreach and Education intern at the Division of Environmental Quality, conducts a presentation.

Grant management consisted of taking an online course regarding the rules and regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency. I also developed a list of terms and its definitions to help with clarifications. This educated me about the federal funded grants that provide for certain environmental necessities for the CNMI.

The internship also consisted of numerous minor projects that I participated in. I participated in each Reef Flat Survey which occurred every other Friday. With this, the interns analyze and record data from our reefs. I also performed general filing of pesticide inspection files along with adopt-a-beach forms.

I had the opportunity to attend the Pacific Islands Environment Conference and help with its registration. This was a weeklong conference that consisted of countless workshops to inform and educate people about the variety of ways to prevent and avoid the environmental deterioration of the CNMI.

At the beginning of the internship, I lacked much knowledge of the environmental status of our islands. It was a relatively new area of work in comparison to my previous occupations. It was difficult adjusting to the terms that were being used around the office. As I began with the assigned work that was given to me, I adapted to the new work setting and adjusted fairly quickly.

A wealth of summer experiences

By STEVEN MANA'OKAMAI JOHNSON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Aloha and Hafa Adai! My name is Steven Mana'okamai Johnson. I am 21 years old and reside in the village of As Teo. I graduated from Mount Carmel High School in 2006 and I am entering my 4th and final year at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida where I will be receiving my bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. After completing my final year of undergrad work I plan on continuing my education in graduate school with a focus on either marine biology or conservation biology, preferably on the West Coast of the U.S. mainland or in Hawaii so I can be closer to home and family.

This summer I was selected to be one of the interns under the Coral Reef Initiative. The CRI summer internship is an interagency program between Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Environmental Quality, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Students either currently enrolled in college or those who are college-bound are selected to work at one of the three agencies. I was selected to work at CRM under the Marine Monitoring Team, along with two other interns, Tyler Warwick and Kalani Reyes. We are advised by the CRM Marine Biologist John Starmer. He is assisted by his two marine technicians and former CRI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steven Mana'okamai Johnson, an intern under the Coral Reef Initiative, prepares to conduct a sea cucumber survey.

summer interns, David Benavente and Rodney Camacho.

At the beginning of the summer John Starmer assigned a hefty load of projects for us to accomplish. The list included the following: help conduct sea cucumber surveys, fish market surveys, ghost crab surveys, and reef flat surveys; make three marine organism fact sheets geared toward elementary school students; revamp and make four poster boards to be used for presentations throughout the CNMI. While this may seem like a lot to accomplish over one summer, the workload has kept us busy and steered us clear of boredom.

The projects that were the most time- and work-intensive were the various surveys we had to help conduct. The

Since then, I have come to learn much more of the CNMI's environmental issues that I have overlooked over the years. I can say that I was naïve to have ignored such important and crucial factors that our islands have been enduring. It took me by surprise to witness the CNMI's negative environmental quality. I am extremely glad to have participated in the effort to conserve both our islands and our people with this internship.

As this internship comes to an end, I will return to Washington with a new perspective. An awareness unseen, overlooked, and underestimated has become a huge and significant part of my life. Hopefully, this has a beneficial influence on other individuals to take a stand to protect our islands and our people.

With my return back to Washington, I will continue my education at Washington State University where I will attain a baccalaureate degree by the end of 2010 then possibly pursue my



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jamie Fejeran, right, poses with her mentors, Reina Camacho and Jim Callier.

sea cucumber survey and reef flat survey are very similar in their methodology. For both surveys a 50-meter line is laid out underwater. This can be over sand bottom, coral, or in many cases a mixture of both. For the sea cucumber survey we swim along this 50 meter line and count every *balate* within 2 meters of the line (either reef side or shore side). The data is then recorded on water proof paper and then entered into our data base. This survey helps us obtain data on different species populations throughout the lagoon.

Reef flat surveys are conducted twice a month. These surveys are open to the public. We use the same methodology as the Sea Cucumber survey. However, instead of counting *balate* we also count corals and algae. Throughout the summer other CRI interns helped us conduct these surveys. This was an excellent opportunity for us to mingle and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Steven Mana'okamai Johnson helps conduct a survey of different species populations throughout the Saipan lagoon.

masters. Afterwards, I will return to the CNMI, where I intend to continue participating in the efforts to promote the betterment of the CNMI.

As the Dalai Lama said, "Sometimes, whether a desire is excessive or negative depends on the circumstances or society in which you live in." He states that one's negative or excessive desire is caused because of the conditions and society where one lives in, which wholly explains my reason why I became interested in the summer internship at the Division of Environment Quality. I was born and raised in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with its sandy beaches, warm atmosphere, and genuine culture. As a local, I definitely do not want to see it deteriorate under such circumstances that we as a whole can avoid and prevent. Hopefully, my input and contribution during this internship will be beneficial to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

give the other interns some insight into the work that MMT does.

The other major project that we were involved with was the fish market survey. The fish market survey is an interagency project involving CRM, DEQ, and local non-governmental organization Pacific Marine Resources Institute. Members from all three agencies go to four of the major fish markets on the island and collect data. The survey is interested in developing information on what fish are being caught, how large the fish are (an indicator of age), and market demands. We can then compile this information and create a guide for fishing laws that would prohibit certain species from being caught at different times of the year. These laws would in turn help struggling species recover as well as create an overall healthier and livelier reef ecosystem.

With two weeks left of the internship left at the time of writing this I aim to continue working on these projects and gaining as much experience as possible from my mentor and the other hard working employees at CRM. This summer internship has given me a wealth of experience that I can take back with me to Florida and other future ventures. More importantly, the experience gained is experience that I want to give back directly to the CNMI. It has been an insightful and intriguing experience mentoring under John Starmer and the rest of the personnel involved with the CRI Internship and I encourage all students in the CNMI to take advantage of opportunities like this. *Mahalo!*

Life & Style

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The potent anesthetic that Michael Jackson's doctor gave him as a sleep aid came from a Las Vegas pharmacy searched Tuesday by federal drug agents and police, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

Authorities are investigating Jackson's June 25 death as a manslaughter and believe the anesthetic propofol he was given at his rented Los Angeles mansion was a major factor. Propofol normally is used to render patients unconscious for medical procedures and only is supposed to be administered by anesthesia professionals in medical settings.

As investigators build their case, a central issue is what drugs were in Jackson's system when he died and

AP source: Jackson doc bought anesthetic in Vegas

how those medications were obtained. Jackson's physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, has told investigators he administered propofol and multiple sedatives to Jackson in the hours before he died, the law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Los Angeles and Las Vegas police and Drug Enforcement Administration agents served a sealed search warrant Tuesday morning at Applied Pharmacy Services in Las Vegas, which the

official said legally sold propofol to Murray. Investigators discovered large amounts of the drug and other medications in Jackson's home after his death. DEA agents were able to track the anesthetic back to the Las Vegas pharmacy.

Through a spokeswoman, Murray's attorney Edward Chernoff said he had not seen the warrant and had no immediate comment.

Murray has talked to detectives but has not spoken publicly since Jackson died. Chernoff has said Murray gave Jackson nothing that "should have"



Murray

killed him and specifically said the physician did not give Jackson the narcotic painkillers Demerol or OxyContin.

The cause of death for Jackson and details about what was in system will be revealed in the final autopsy report prepared by the Los Angeles County coroner's office. It announced Monday that it has completed its work but won't release findings while the police investigation is ongoing.

Weeks ago authorities served search warrants at Murray's Las Vegas home and his businesses in Las Vegas and Houston, where they seized computer hard drives, medical equipment invoices, phone records

and other items. Officials also sought evidence pertaining to the purchase of propofol in those warrants.

Investigators also are looking into Jackson's interactions with at least six other doctors, court documents show.

Michael Flanagan, assistant special agent in charge of the DEA in Las Vegas, said Tuesday's warrant was issued without incident at the single-story business in a strip mall with several other medical services and insurance offices on Flamingo Road, several miles west of the Las Vegas Strip.

The pharmacy staff was cooperative, he said, adding that authorities were searching for any and all paper documents and electronic records. He declined to provide any details.

In his new life he now joins his:

Wife	Trinidad Arriola Borja
Son	Juan A. Borja
Grandson	Joey Victorino S. Borja
Father	Vicente D. Borja
Mother	Victoria T. Borja and Angelina F. Borja
Father in law	Pedro Torres Arriola
Mother in law	Rosa Sablan Arriola
Son in law	Julian A. Concepcion
Brothers, Sisters	Ricardo T. Borja Daniel T. & Joaquina S. Borja Olympio T. Borja Pedro T. Borja Felis T. Borja Manuel T. Borja Teresita C. & Jesus Dela Cruz
In laws	Trinidad S. Sizemore Jesus (Sibo) Sonoda Juliana & Gregorio Arriola Luis S. & Maria C. Arriola

His spirit and memories will forever live in the heart of his:

Children & Spouses	Rosita B. & Joaquin (Kilroy) Guerrero Trina & Peter Torres (Jaylynn & Keona) Kilroy B. Guerrero Victoria & Vidal Camacho (VJ & Vayden) Joaquin B. Guerrero Jr.
	Victoria B. & (+) Julian A. Concepcion Cartrina Concepcion & LJ Guerrero (JJ & Kingston) Tanya Concepcion & John Iguel (Trini Marie) Lorna Concepcion & John Paul Flores (Juden, Rocco & Blaze) Victor Jude Concepcion & Roxanne Pangelinan (Jillian Jade)
	Lucia B. & Gregory W. Hurst Anthony (Charlie) & Michelle L. Hurst (Anthony Jr.) Nanette Yvonne Hurst & Derick Aughenbaugh (Irieyana Ferne)
	Joseph A. & Evelyn S. Borja Kayla, Sage & Ohane
	Juan A. & Jessica Borja Keilani & Memo Olmos (Isaiah, Israel, Isabella) Kaleb, Keanalyn, Kiamani

Victoring Tudela Borja
Better known as "Tun Bino"

was called to his eternal rest on
Monday, August 10, 2009 at the age of 76

Reared Children:	Teresita R. and Fred Prosser and Children Eugenia (Ginni) and Pedro Togawa and Children
Special Friends:	M/Mrs. James Gima
Reared Grandson:	Carlos K. Ketebenang
Special Pet:	Seena
Brothers, Sisters in-laws	Carmen Dlg Borja Children Antonia C. Borja & Children Trinidad C. Borja Concepcion & Joel Bernardo Ignacia & Ceasar Villaluz & Children Candelaria Borja & Children Manuel F. Borja Joaquin F. Borja Francisco F. Borja & Children Estephania & Francisco Chong & Children Edward F. & Doreen Camacho
In-laws	Margarita S. Arriola & Children Jose (Boya) A. Sonoda & Children (+) Trinidad S. & William Sizemore & Children (+) Jesus & Menchang Sonoda & Children Rosie S. & Marvin Kessler & Children Jesus Ramon & Anicia C. Sonoda & Children

He is also survived by numerous Aunties, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and Godchildren.

Daily mass of intention will be at 6:00 am and nightly rosary will be at 7:30 pm at Kristo Rai Church. Funeral announcements will be made at a later date.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Children, Grandchildren, and Family

In Loving Memory

Rita Hocog Inos, Ed.D

*O*ur Heavenly Father welcomed Rita to her eternal life on Monday, August 10, 2009 at the age of 55 years at the Commonwealth Health Center. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Jude Church in Saipan and at 7:00 p.m. at the San Francisco de Borja Church in Rota.

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Rita now joins her mother: Ana Songao Hocog and her parents-in-law Vicente Atalig Inos and Ana Songao Inos.

Rita's compassion and wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her Husband: Cristobal S. Inos, her children: Denise Lorraine Hocog Inos, and Ana Blossom Hocog Inos and granddaughter Elisabeth Inos Gardner.

Rita is survived by her brothers, sister and their spouses and children:

Senator Paterno Hocog & Elizabeth Mendiola (Anginette Sasakura Mendiola-Bamba & John Anthony Bamba, Joshua Alfred Mendiola-Bamba, John Anthony Mundo-Bamba, Jr., Jay Chris, Andre Mendiola Bamba, Carrie Lynn Ayuyu Hocog & Vito Mesngon Ulloa, Jr., Andrei Mendiola & Elinor Amon, Eleneca Dee Amon Mendiola, Paterno Jose Ayuyu Hocog, Patty Beth Mendiola Hocog, and Paterno Mendiola Hocog, Jr.)

Manuel Hocog

Pedro Hocog & Elizabeth Barcinas (Abel Barcina Hocog, Flavian Barcina Hocog, Lucille Barcina Hocog, Peter Anthony Barcina Hocog)

Angel Hocog

Elizabeth Hocog Apatang & Joseph Apatang (Jolynn Hocog Apatang)

Edward Hocog & Ruby Hocog, (Edward Manglona Hocog, Jr., Domingo Manglona Hocog, Angieanna Manglona Hocog, Esco Ann Dela Cruz Hocog, Kiana Dela Cruz Hocog)

She is additionally survived by her brothers/sisters-in-law:

Mayor Joseph S. & Lucy S. Inos & Children

Lt. Governor Eloy S. & Dolores A. Inos & Children

Esther I. & Jose Basa & Children

Ramon & Juanita I. Takai & Children

Rufin S. & Thelma B. Inos & Children

Ramon & Lucy I. Sablan & Children

Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews will also miss her.

Viewing will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. and followed by Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Last respects for Rita will be held at the San Francisco de Borja Church in Rota on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., burial will follow immediately at San Jose Cemetery in Songsong Village (Rota).

***Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginan as Cristobal S. Inos,
I famagu'oña yan I familia.***



Rapper 'C-Murder' convicted of 2002 fan shooting

GRETNNA, La. (AP)—Rapper Corey "C-Murder" Miller was convicted Tuesday of second-degree murder for the 2002 shooting of a fan during a night-club brawl, capping tumultuous jury deliberations at his second trial in the killing.

The Louisiana jury reached the 10-2 verdict around 1:30 p.m. in its second day of deliberations. Jurors had reached the same verdict earlier in the day, but District Judge Hans Liljeberg ordered them back to the jury room for more deliberation because of a questionable vote. Ten votes are required for a second-degree murder conviction.

Liljeberg said after the verdict's initial reading that one

juror had apparently changed her vote just to end deliberations—rendering the verdict invalid. Three jurors had been seen crying in the courtroom Tuesday morning, and the day before they sent a note that they were having trouble reaching a consensus.

The invalid verdict prompted defense attorney Ron Rakosky to move for a mistrial saying that the judge had pressured the jury into reaching a verdict. Liljeberg denied the motion.

"I don't think I pressured them at all," Liljeberg said. "I told them if they could not reach a verdict to let me know."

The courtroom was completely silent when the verdict was given for the second time.

More than a dozen law enforcement officers filled the center aisle, and the judge had warned that anyone who so much as gasped would be arrested.

The victim's family left in tears.

"I'm not rejoicing. I feel bad for (Miller's) family. But at least they can see him. What have we got but a gravesite and a photograph," said George Thomas, whose 16-year-old son, Steve Thomas, was shot to death during the Jan. 12, 2002, brawl in a now-closed Harvey, La., nightclub.

Miller's family and friends also cried outside the courtroom. His sister, Germaine Miller, shouted and accused the prosecutors of corruption.

Promoter: Jackson tribute to be televised globally



VIENNA (AP)—Next month's tribute to Michael Jackson on the grounds of a 17th century palace in Vienna will feature a three-hour, star-studded show to be televised live to a global audience of 1 billion people, the event promoter said Tuesday.

Georg Kindel of World Awards Media GmbH said negotiations are ongoing with networks over rights to broadcast what's being billed as Jackson's main global tribute, and the pop legend's brother Jermaine is assembling the lineup of about 10 "of the biggest artists of our time."

"Jermaine thinks maybe 1 billion people will watch the television show," Kindel said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It will be a very special evening for the millions of fans around the globe."

Austrian media reported that Madonna, U2, Lionel Richie and Whitney Houston might be among the artists performing 15-20 Jackson hits on a crown-shaped outdoor stage in front of Schoenbrunn Palace. But Kindel said the lineup is still in the works.

"I don't even know myself" who will take the stage, he said.

The event will be held in the second half of September, he said. Organizers have pledged to announce the date and lineup soon. Tickets go on sale Aug. 20.

Kindel said the show—conceived amid a flurry of events honoring Jackson since his death June 25 in Los Angeles—also will feature family members and unidentified Hollywood stars reminiscing as images and video clips of Jackson are screened.

Alice in Chains gets Elton John for tribute song

NEW YORK (AP)—Alice in Chains thought it would take a miracle to get Elton John to play on the band's tribute record to their late lead singer, Layne Staley. But it only took a listen to the song to get the rock legend on board.

"He's a really warm person," said Alice in Chains co-founder Jerry Cantrell of John. "He got up and gave us a couple of hugs, and said, 'Well Jerry, I just wanted to tell you that I think it's a beautiful song. ... I really dig the sentiment of what it's about and who it's for and I just want to tell you that I'm going to play on the song.'"

John plays piano on "Black Gives Way to Blue," a short but poignant ode to Staley, who died of a drug overdose in 2002. The song is the title track for their upcoming CD, the grunge rock band's first studio album in 14 years.

Cantrell, who wrote the tune, had already made a demo of the song when someone heard it and suggested John as the perfect person to play the piano part. Although the band knew people connected to the 62-year-old singer, they thought it was a long shot that he would even consider it.

"I didn't think that would happen."



In this July 18, 2009 file photo, Elton John performs during a concert with Billy Joel at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

pen. He's a pretty busy guy doing his own thing," Cantrell said.

But they sent the song to him, and as fate would have it, both acts were slated to record at a studio complex at the same time.

It wasn't until Alice in Chains left the studio for a break that they got word that John wanted to meet with them.

"We got a call from our studio manager saying that Elton wanted to talk to us," said Cantrell, laughing. "We jumped in the car, left our lunches on the table, and found out that he wanted to meet with them."

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Jennifer Hudson gives birth to a son

Typecasting!
Modine plays
Modine in
stage comedy

NEW YORK (AP)—Talk about typecasting.

Matthew Modine (moh-DEEN') will portray a fictionalized version of himself in "Matthew Modine Saves the Alpacas," opening Sept. 16 at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. Previews for the comedy by Blair Singer begin Sept. 8 for a limited run through Oct. 18.

The 50-year-old actor, who has appeared in such acclaimed films as "Birdy," "Married to the Mob" and "Full Metal Jacket," plays an actor eager to find a cause that can put him back in front of the public.

Also in the cast: Peri Gilpin, best known as Roz on television's "Frasier," and French Stewart, a regular on TV's "3rd Rock from the Sun."



This Nov. 28, 2007 file photo shows actor Matthew Modine posing as he arrives at the short film premiere of "Love Sees No Color," in Los Angeles.

EA Sports teams with ESPN to promote 'Madden'

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you have a spouse, a sibling or some other relative or friend who loves football and video games, don't expect to see much of him (or her) this weekend. "Madden NFL 10," the latest installment of the series that took armchair quarterbacking to a new level, comes out Friday.

EA Sports usually launches "Madden" with a party—last year's "Maddenpalooza" was held at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. But this year, says marketing director Nathan Stewart, EA wants to "reach all our fans in all corners of the country." The main promotional effort involves a tie-in with ESPN's "Monday Night Football," which returns to television Thursday night.



In this May 15, 2009 file photo, Academy Award winner Jennifer Hudson appears on NBC "Today" television show in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Hudson has a new role—that of a proud mother.

The 27-year-old Oscar winner gave birth to her first child, David Daniel Otunga Jr., on Monday, according to her publicist, Lisa Kasteler of WKT Public Relations. He is named after her fiance, David Otunga. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

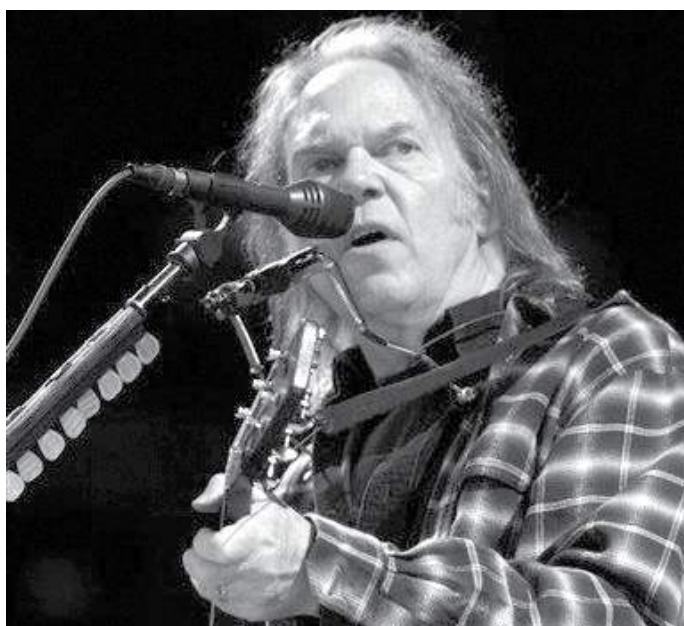
"The baby is beautiful and perfect," says Hudson's publicist Lisa Kasteler. "His parents are ecstatic."

Hudson, who is also a Grammy-winning singer, had not confirmed she was expecting before announcing news of the birth.

The entertainer suffered a tragic blow last fall when her mother, brother and nephew were slain in her native Chicago. Her sister's estranged husband is charged with the killings.

Hudson, who gained fame first as a top contender on "American Idol," won an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her portrayal of Effie in "Dreamgirls" in 2007. Earlier this year, she won a Grammy for best R&B album for her self-titled debut CD.

The birth was first reported by the Hollywood Reporter's Showbiz411.com.



In this June 14, 2009 file photo, Neil Young performs at the Isle of Wight festival 2009 in Newport, England.

Trim, relaxed Leno says he's ready for prime-time

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jay Leno says comedy will rule on his new daily prime-time series and he'll put stars in cars instead of a couch.

Leno, looking relaxed and trim—the result of running four miles a day, he said—told the Television Critics Association on Wednesday that fall's "The Jay Leno Show" will feature some elements from his old home, "Tonight," but in a far different mix.

For starters, there likely won't be the standard-issue talk show desk. Musical acts will be featured only about twice a week because, Leno said, they play better in the studio than on TV. NBC anchor Brian Williams will

be filing stories that didn't make the cut on "Nightly News."

A race track is being built near NBC's Burbank studio for a regular "green car challenge" that will allow celebrities to race electric vehicles, said Leno, an automotive buff with an extensive collection. Other stunts may await guests called on to do more than talk.

Racing fan Tom Cruise called to ask if they'd have a chance to practice—and was told no, Leno said.

The show itself will be fast-moving and will make sure there are laughs heading into the local news on NBC stations. They count on a strong lead-in to sustain their lucrative newscasts.

An opening monologue and popular "Tonight" fixtures including funny headlines and "Jaywalking," in which Leno gives pop quizzes to pedestrians, will be part of the new show. Comedians including D.L. Hughley will do field reports, although Leno said his program won't have a "Daily Show" flavor.

Leno and new "Tonight" host Conan O'Brien will compete for guests, Leno said. But he added that they're pals and it would remain a friendly rivalry.

Leno was asked if he's fretting over being expected to rescue fourth-place NBC.

"I'm not counted on to save the network. The network's on its own," he said.

Wary parents suggest ways to keep kids safe in public

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Lisa in Phoenix" (June 12) questioned whether taking her 7-year-old son into the ladies' room would be better than having her wait outside the men's room. You advised her to stand outside the men's room and announce loudly that she will be "waiting right there." Abby, children have been violated in a matter of seconds in the play areas of fast food restaurants with the parents RIGHT THERE!

As a mother, I feel the advice you gave Lisa will give her a false sense of security and put her child in danger. I would have told Lisa that before they go anywhere, she should make sure her son goes to the bathroom at home. If he has to go while they are out, she should go to the men's room, knock on the door and announce that she is with a child. If there is no answer, GO IN AND BE SURE NO ONE IS INSIDE. If she's uncomfortable doing it, ask an employee to check. Then wait outside the bathroom. If a man needs to go in, she can explain the situation.

Never assume that simply standing guard outside the door will deter a molester. They couldn't care less.

VIGILANT MOM IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR VIGILANT: Your suggestions are helpful, and thank you for offering them. Other readers volunteered alternative solutions to Lisa's dilemma. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have a 7-year-old son and I do not allow him to go unsupervised into a men's room. Anyone could be behind that door and anything could happen in less than a minute's time. We must protect our children even if it means that sometimes they have to suffer embarrassment.

A friend with two sons offered an interesting alternative. She would allow her sons to use the men's room if they talked to her while she stood outside the door. If they stopped talking, they knew it meant she was coming in.

DONNA IN TYNER, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: Your advice strikes a balance between commonsense safety and "helicopter parenting." Having been a teacher for 42 years, I see an alarming increase in the number of parents who want to be in lockstep with their children 24/7. It can be stunting, and it does not prepare them for life in the real world. Of course, parents should take some precautions for the sake of safety, but don't be so paralyzed with fear that you keep your children from becoming self-directed individuals.

MANHATTAN, KAN., TEACHER

DEAR ABBY: When my son was 7 or 8, he, too, was embarrassed about going into the restroom with me. I gave him a whistle with instructions to blow it if anyone bothered him while I waited outside the men's room. The whistle also came with additional instructions: "Never blow it as a joke just to see if I'll come running, because if you do, you are in DEEP trouble!"

LORI IN TEANECK, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: Lisa should invest in a pair of two-way radios. This way, her son goes into the restroom with an additional layer of protection. She should also inform him to always use the stall so he can lock the door.

MARK IN GATOR COUNTRY

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to Lisa was good, but she should also discuss personal safety with her son. He needs to know exactly what to do if anyone says, or does, anything inappropriate. As parents, we can't be everywhere our children are at all times, and that's why we need to equip them with life skills to handle/ avoid dangerous situations.

A BOY'S MOM IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

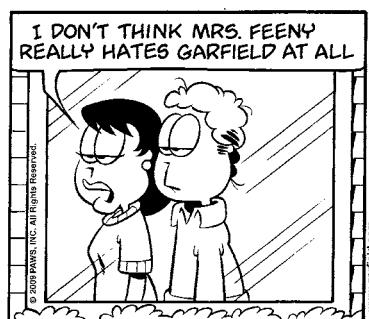
OF COURSE NOT, MOM! TYRANNOSAURS CAME MILLIONS OF YEARS LATER!

LOOK, TRY NOT TO EMBARRASS ME WHEN WE GO INSIDE, OK?

WHY ARE WE GOING HERE IF HE ALREADY KNOWS EVERYTHING?

B/13

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

I JUST THINK SHE'S A VERY UNHAPPY PERSON, WHO...

UH-OH, HERE SHE COMES

I'VE BEEN HERE ALL DAY

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

HEY, KATY! NEW KID ALERT! FOUR DOORS DOWN.

OOOH. A NEW KID. MYSTERIOUS.

I WONDER IF HE HAS ANY SECRETS.

WE ALL HAVE SECRETS!

WHAT'S YOURS?

I CAN'T TELL YOU. THEN IT WOULDN'T BE A SECRET.

OH, REALLY? PERHAPS I SHOULD TELL MOM WHO RUINED HER GOOD SCISSORS.

I STILL LIKE "SEASAME STREET" HAPPY NOW?

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



KABOOM

CROSSWORD

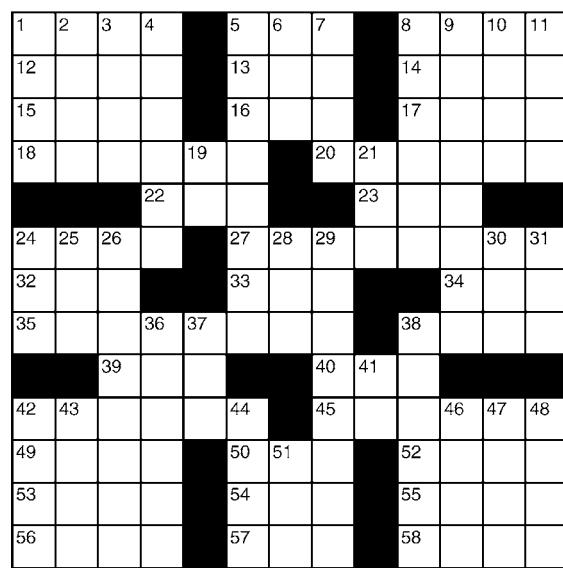
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Honest politician?	58	Carry	21	Billboards
1	Bridge coup	40	Mimic	24	"Monty Python"	opener
5	— de deux	42	Kidnapper's demand	1	Vail gear	
8	Grand tale	45	"You Can't — Again"	2	Ness, e.g.	
12	Caffeine-rich nut	49	Clarinet's cousin	3	Sheltered	player
13	Every crumb	50	Flightless bird	4	Curtain fabric	
14	Doily feature	52	Mideast airline	5	Lines that fail to meet	
15	On the rocks	53	Mainlanders' memen-tos	6	Hearty brew	
16	Actor Stephen	54	Vast expanse	7	Balkan native	
17	Press	55	Ostentatious display	8	Bring out	
18	Everest guide	56	Stats for 52-Across	9	Eden	
20	Empty	57	Whatever by number	10	PC picture	
22	Have something wrong			11	Small change	
23	Accomplished			19	Circumference	
24	Satan's minions			30	Prepare leftovers	
27	Kiss reminder			41	One of the Tele-tubbies	
32	Earl Grey, e.g.			42	Portrayal	
33	Actress Mendes			43	Lend an illegal hand	
34	That woman			44	Small plateau	
35	Baby carriage			46	Hodge-podge	
38	Check			47	Shoppers' site	
				48	Differently	
				51	Chaps	

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	A	D	R	A	W	S	T	A	Y	
A	V	I	V	A	N	I	H	O	B	O
T	O	B	O	G	A	N	O	B	E	O
E	N	S	U	E	D	O	R	A	D	O
C	L	O	T	D	E	C				
K	I	T	H	N	E	E	C	B	S	
E	G	O	A	C	R	E	S	O	A	
N	O	B	D	E	M	I	A	S	H	
Y	M	A	S	L	O	B				
A	D	J	U	R	N	T				
D	U	Y	E	N	U	T				
A	H	U	A	L	E	S				
E	D	G	E	H	I	E				
M	O	S	S	H	O	G				

Yesterday's answer 8-13



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Shani Davis, 27; Dawnn Lewis, 48; Feargal Sharkey, 50; Kathleen Battle, 61

Happy Birthday: This is not a year that you can take chances. Be prepared if you want to play the game. Don't trust anyone with your personal business. Empty promises are likely to leave you disappointed in someone you thought you could count on. Your involvement in an organization you believe in may not live up to the goals set. Your numbers are 2, 8, 14, 16, 22, 45, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be reasonable and reserve judgment. If you jump to conclusions, you will give everyone the wrong impression regarding who you are and what you are trying to do. Handle situations professionally if you want to be treated as a leader. ☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do a little research before you hand money over to an organization pressuring you for a donation. Take stock of what needs to be done for the people you love before you help outsiders. Not everyone will be totally upfront. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do what you know is best for yourself and not what someone else is trying to get you to do. Avoid any involvement that is costly or risky even if you care about the person trying to get you to participate. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Find a way to budget wisely by cutting some costly corners. If you aren't sure about

something involving assets or investments, ask someone you know will guide you conservatively. A change at home will help your love life. ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone may try to manipulate you by giving you false impressions. Stick to your own plans and be practical about your financial affairs, partnerships and your personal relationships. You can never be too careful. ☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take part in events or activities and you will realize what it is you want to do as a sideline or professionally. A course that will help you update your skills will also lead to some positive changes at home. ☀☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hold your ground and refuse to give in to anyone trying to get something from you. You cannot let your generous nature be taken advantage of if you expect to gain respect from someone who just wants to lean on you. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of relationship problems immediately because, if you don't, things will fester and get out of hand. Someone may disappoint you. Don't let jealousy get in the way of sound judgment. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep things in perspective. If you exaggerate, someone will correct you. A sudden turn of events will upset a friendship, altering the living conditions you currently share. ☀☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Love is on the rise and alterations to your living quarters are looking positive. Someone may try to get you to invest in something that is not really your style. Instead, put your cash into something that really excites you. ☀☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have to fast-talk your way out of something that you did that offended someone. Use your Aquarius charm but don't tell a fib or you will be caught. Clear up things left undone from your past. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An old acquaintance whom you would have liked to get to know better can now be approached. An interesting scenario will unfold. Don't be afraid to make the first move. There is much to gain and nothing to lose. ☀☀☀

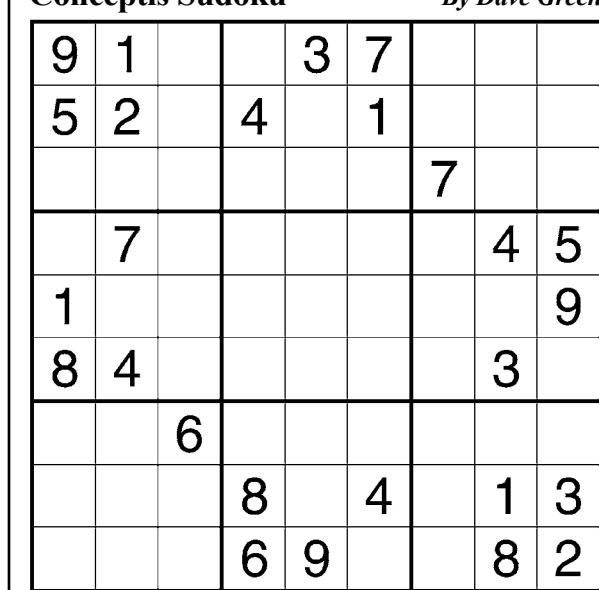
Birthday Baby: You are stubborn, steadfast and eager to follow your own path. You are critical, careful and selective about how things are done. You like to be the boss.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

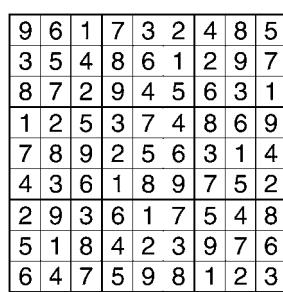
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUYER BEWARE

Solution: 9 letters



© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 8/13

Advice, Cancel, Caveat, Check, Clause, Close, Compensation, Costs, Credit, Defects, Dollar, Economy, Enforce, Fitness, Fraud, Goods, Home, Inspect, Internet, Justice, Latin, Laws, Letters, Limits, Lure, Manager, Movies, Online, Prize, Product, Recall, Referral, Reliable, Return, Rude, Salesperson, Scam, Signature, Statutory, Telemarketer, Test, Trial

Yesterday's Answer: Cleansing

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from the original. So for the time being, the book is out of print. To get a copy, call 1-800-542-5489. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Saipan Tribune

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Bar No.: F0221

Attorney for Administratrix

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF) Civil Action
BERNADITA T. RANKIN,) No. 08-0360
Decedent.) NOTICE OF
) HEARING ON
) PETITION
) FOR FINAL
) DISTRIBUTION

Date : September 8, 2009
Time : 1:30 p.m.
Judge : Hon. Robert C. Naraja

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that **September 8, 2009** at
1:30 p.m., a hearing on the
Administratrix's Petition for
Final Distribution in the
above-matter will be heard.

Dated this **23rd** day of July,
2009.

/s/ Elsa Nieto - Duenas
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section



Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire a qualified individual as follows:

POSITION TITLE:

PAY-LEVEL:

PER ANNUM SALARY:

REPORTS TO:

LOCATION:

LEGAL COUNSEL

P.L. 28 / STEP 1-10

\$ 40,017 - \$62,080

Program Manager

NMPASI Office – Saipan

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is an exempt professional responsible for providing legal services to eligible clients and for supervising other program personnel assigned to provide lay-advocacy for individuals with disabilities. The Legal Counsel will be selected by a panel of NMPASI personnel and will report to the Program Manager. The Legal Counsel works under limited supervision within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;

Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office **no later than 5:00pm on August 20, 2009**. In order for applications to be considered, they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) Resume, (3) Completed Application forms, and (4) a Police Clearance. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com.

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ADS (7DAYS)

COMBO

(PRINT AND ONLINE)

\$25

\$35

\$45

\$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.*

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

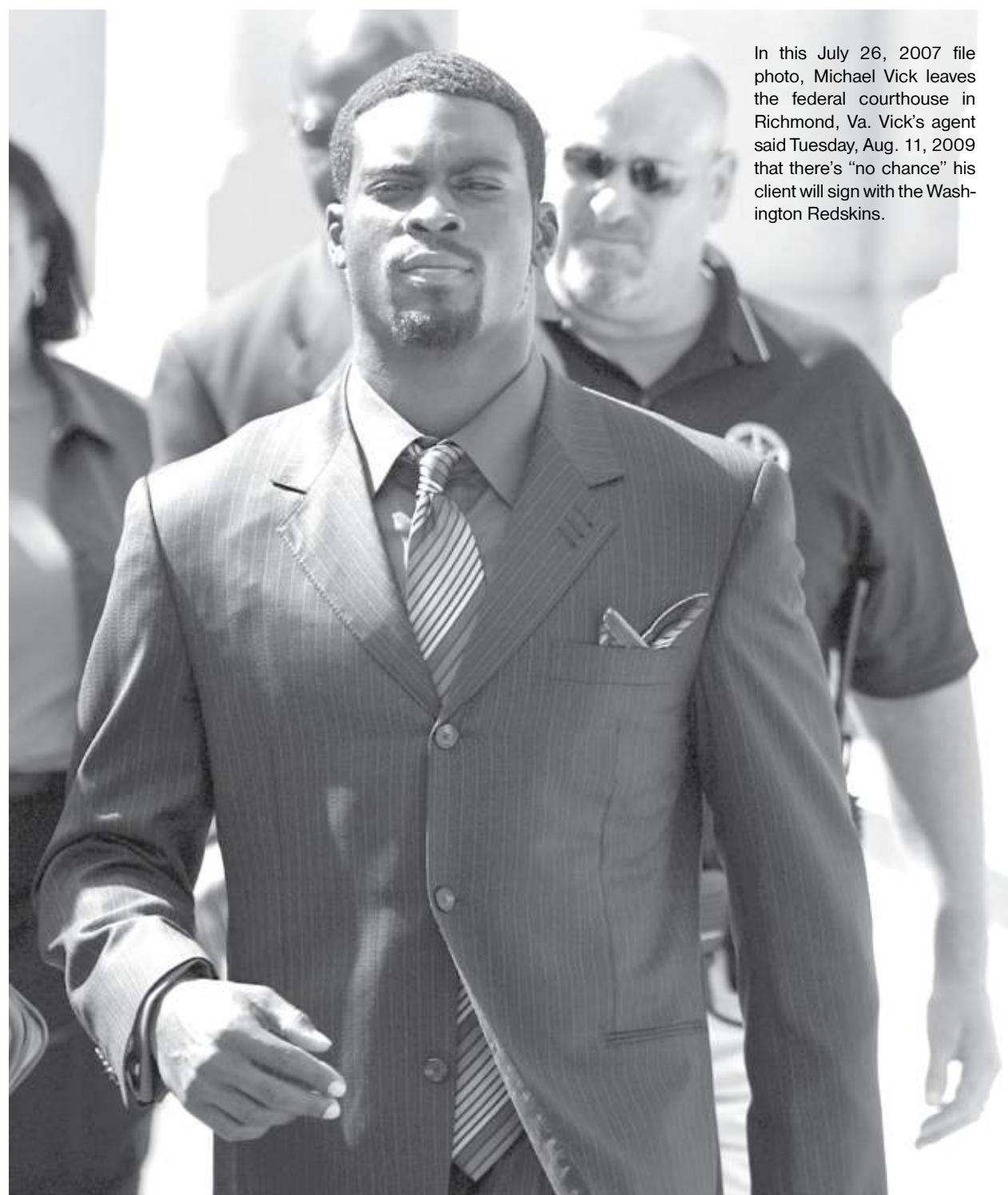
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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Agent: 'No chance' of Vick signing with Redskins



In this July 26, 2007 file photo, Michael Vick leaves the federal courthouse in Richmond, Va. Vick's agent said Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009 that there's "no chance" his client will sign with the Washington Redskins.



ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—It seems "a lot of teams" are interested in Michael Vick. The Washington Redskins, apparently, aren't one of them.

Vick's agent, Joel Segal, made an appearance at a Redskins training camp practice. Segal, however, said he had dropped by to visit his Redskins clients, including Jason Campbell, DeAngelo Hall and LaRon Landry.

"No. No chance," Segal said when asked about the possibility of Vick signing with Washington.

In an interview with ESPN 980, Segal said he was "very optimistic" that Vick would sign with an NFL team soon.

"There are a lot of teams interested. ... It's not a matter of if, but when," Segal said. "And Mike's excited with the opportunity that the commissioner has given him. He's ready to go help a club win."

Vick was conditionally reinstated by the NFL commissioner Roger Goodell last month after the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback completed a 23-month sentence for running a dogfighting ring.

The Redskins have frequently been mentioned as a potential suitor for Vick because of the team's tenuous quarterback situation. Campbell is entering the final year of his contract, and owner Dan Snyder spent the offseason pursuing alternatives, including Jay Cutler (notes) in a possible trade and

Mark Sanchez (notes) in the draft.

Segal likes the Redskins' quarterback situation the way it is, given that he represents Campbell.

"Jason is a special guy," Segal said. "A lot of guys would have been rattled, lost their confidence. This guy is ice."

Meanwhile, Vick told basketball campers at Hampton University on Tuesday to use his own story as an example as they work to follow their dreams.

The free agent NFL quarterback, who last month finished a 23-month federal prison sentence for dogfighting, told a crowd of about 250 to "use me as an example for your dreams." Vick also told them that after accomplishing his goals he "allowed someone who didn't have my best interests at heart to take all that away from me," according to a release from the school.

"Respect helps you to make wise decisions," Vick said.

Vick lives in Hampton and was a surprise guest at the camp run by Pirates interim men's basketball coach Ed Joyner Jr., according to the university.

Vick, 29, left school after three years and was the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL Draft by the Atlanta Falcons. Once the league's highest-paid player, his career came tumbling down when he was convicted in August 2007 of conspiracy and running a dogfighting operation.

After being suspended indefinitely, Vick was conditionally reinstated by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell last month and cleared to sign with a team, but thus far there have been no takers.

Woods says he was not fined for comment



CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Tiger Woods has said he was not fined by the PGA Tour for his critical remarks about a rules official putting the last group on the clock at Firestone.

A PGA Tour official told The Associated Press on Monday that the world's No. 1 player would be fined for his comment. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the tour does not publicize fines.

A section of the PGA Tour handbook says "it is an obligation of membership to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage tournaments, sponsors, fellow members, players or PGA Tour."

"I've heard from the tour and there's no fine," Woods said. "That was an erroneous report."

Woods was annoyed after his four-shot victory Sunday because he and Padraig Harrington were put on the clock after walking off the tee at the par-5 16th.

He said that caused Harrington to rush three difficult shots, leading to triple bogey that effectively ended the tournament.

European Tour chief referee John Paramor told Woods and Harrington they were being timed.

Woods said he told Harrington after it was over, "I'm sorry that John got in the way of a great battle."

Asked Tuesday if he regretted making the issue personal by calling out Paramor, Woods said, "No. Because he's the one who did it."

Woods said he can appreciate the job of a rules official, and "that's why

I thought they would have used better judgment on that."

"As I said, we were the ones that were probably going to win the golf tournament in the last group. We separated ourselves," Woods said. "And after what Paddy went through, we were still right there behind the group in front of us. So I don't know if the group in front of us was being timed or not. They didn't look like they were rushing. But it certainly influenced us in how we played and influenced the outcome of a tournament."

While the PGA Tour does not discuss fines, spokesman Ty Votaw confirmed that Woods has not been fined.

"The information that was conveyed to the reporter was inaccurate," Votaw said. "There has been no process started with respect to any disciplinary action. Based on the reports we have read, Tiger's comments related to the impact of the decision. We did not read them as being an unreasonable attack or disparaging."

Harrington said he did not read or hear of Woods' remark in his defense and couldn't comment. He continued to blame himself for failing to keep it in the fairway, which required more thought over how to escape trouble.

"I reacted poorly to the situation, and that's my own fault," Harrington said.

Later, however, he said Woods was in a better position to speak his mind having won the tournament.

"He can take the moral high ground and say what he wants," Harrington said. "Having lost the tournament ... I'm going to take it on the chin and say it was my mistake."

NFL BRIEFS

T.O. day to day with sprained toe

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP)—Buffalo Bills receiver Terrell Owens missed practice Tuesday and is day to day because of a sprained toe. Bills coach Dick Jauron said it was too early to determine whether Owens would play in Buffalo's preseason home opener against Chicago on Saturday. Owens was not present for the Bills' morning walkthrough session or their night practice during the team's first day back at training camp since a 21-18 loss to Tennessee in the Hall of Fame game on Sunday. With 10 minutes left in the night practice, Owens was spotted leaving a side door of the training facility. Wearing running shoes and shorts, and with a red cap pulled on backward on his head, Owens walked with a slight limp while making his way up the stairs to the players' dormitories. Owens jammed his toe during the game Sunday. It's not clear when or how the injury happened, but Owens was on the field for the entire series, the only one featuring the Bills starters. He finished with two catches for 27 yards. Shortly after the game, Owens complained about an aching toe in a comment posted on his Twitter.com site. Tweeting that he was on the team bus to the airport, Owens wrote, "Damn my toe is aching!" fol-

lowed by a symbol of a concerned face.

Saints to work out Pro Bowl Brooks

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—At last, an NFL team is showing some genuine interest in 36-year-old, 11-time Pro Bowl linebacker Derrick Brooks. The New Orleans Saints Tuesday invited Brooks in for a workout after learning that reserve linebacker Mark Simonneau would need surgery to repair a torn triceps. Brooks, released by Tampa Bay after last season, will work out with the Saints on Wednesday. He has been in the NFL for 14 seasons, all with the Buccaneers, who play the Saints twice a year as a fellow NFC South Division club. When the Saints studied Buccaneers film last season, they liked the way Brooks played when he was healthy, head coach Sean Payton said. "We felt like he was still playing at a high level," Payton said. "He's an intelligent player, instinctive, a guy that's really been a pain for us over the years, so we've got a lot of respect for his ability." Brooks was one of two linebackers the Saints invited to work out, the other being 34-year-old veteran Derek Smith (notes), who has played 12 seasons, mostly with Washington and San Francisco, where he was a regular starter. Smith's workout is also on Wednesday. Last season,

Smith played in five games with San Diego and one with Miami.

Colts LT Ugoh loses starting job

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP)—Indianapolis left tackle Tony Ugoh is in unfamiliar territory as a reserve. Colts coach Jim Caldwell has replaced Ugoh with Charlie Johnson and Johnson is expected to start Friday's preseason opener at home against Minnesota. Ugoh took over the position when Tarik Glenn retired after the Colts won the Super Bowl in 2007. Since then, Ugoh has started 23 regular-season games, helping protect quarterback Peyton Manning's blindside. He'll have to work a bit harder to regain his spot on the depth chart. "I always look forward to a challenge," the soft-spoken Ugoh said Tuesday after a morning practice. "I don't like getting beat. I'm a perfectionist. I take getting beat kind of hard." Caldwell said he told Ugoh of the decision before organized team activities, and Ugoh didn't improve enough during the offseason to change Caldwell's mind. "He's a talented guy," he said. "His rookie year, I think he performed well. We're just anticipating that he's going to make a leap here shortly. This is his third year, and we're just looking for overall improvement."

Matsui, Posada homers lift Yanks past Jays



NEW YORK (AP) —

Hideki Matsui and Jorge Posada hit back-to-back homers leading off the eighth inning and New York beat Toronto 7-5 on Tuesday night for its eighth win in nine games.

Matsui hit a 3-2 pitch from Jesse Carlson (1-5) deep to right to tie it at 4 and Posada followed with an opposite-field drive that just got over the glove of leaping right fielder Joe Inglett and survived a video review. Melky Cabrera and Johnny Damon added RBI singles off Josh Roenicke to make it 7-4.

New York has hit consecutive homers in three straight games for the first time since 1983 and has gone back-to-back 13 times this season.

David Robertson (2-1) retired the only batter he faced to get the win and Mariano Rivera (notes) allowed Edwin Encarnacion's first homer with Toronto before finishing for his 33rd save in 34 opportunities.

Red Sox 7, Tigers 5

At Boston, Mike Lowell, who entered the game after Kevin Youkilis was ejected for charging the mound and inciting a bench-clearing scuffle, hit two home runs to lead Boston.

Lowell hit a solo homer in the third to break a 3-3 tie, then added a two-run shot in the fifth to make it 6-3. He scored on Jason Bay's three-run homer after entering the game in the second as a pinch-runner when Detroit starter Rick Porcello was ejected for hitting Youkilis and sparking the melee.

Junichi Tazawa (1-1) allowed three runs—one earned—while walking two and striking out six in five innings in his first major-league start.

Chris Lambert allowed five runs, five hits and four walks in five innings in relief of Porcello, who hit Youkilis in apparent retaliation for Tazawa's plunking of Miguel Cabrera.

Curtis Granderson hit a two-run homer off Jonathan Papelbon with two outs in the ninth to make it 7-5.

Angels 6, Rays 0

At Anaheim, Ervin Santana pitched a three-hitter for his first home win of the season, and Jeff Mathis hit a three-run double for Los Angeles.

Reggie Willits' two-run single in the fifth broke open a scoreless game for the Angels, who boosted their AL West lead over Texas to five games with their 18th win in 25 outings since the All-Star break.

Santana (5-6) has missed 52 games during two stints on the disabled list this season. It was his third career shutout.

White Sox 3, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Chicago's Alexi Ramirez hit a three-run homer with one out in the top of the ninth off closer David Aardsma.

The White Sox were held to one hit over six innings by Seattle starter Doug Fister, who was making his major league debut. Aardsma (3-4) had his third blown save of the season.

Paul Konerko nearly tied it to open the ninth, flying out to the wall in center field. After a walk to A.J. Pierzynski (notes) and single by Carlos Quentin, Ramirez hit his 13th homer of the season.

Indians 5, Rangers 0

At Cleveland, Aaron Laffey pitched effectively into the seventh inning to remain undefeated at home for Cleveland.



New York Yankees Hideki Matsui watches his eighth inning, game-tying solo home run to right field in the Yankees 7-5 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009 in New York. AP

The Indians improved to 13-6 since losing 21 of 28 from June 15 to July 19. Texas came in tied with Boston for the wild card lead in the AL, but fell to 3-5 in August.

Laffey (6-3) allowed six hits and three walks in 6 2-3 innings. He is 4-0 with a 1.59 ERA in five home starts.

Dustin Nippert (3-1) struck out a career-high 10 over six innings for Texas but Cleveland's first five batters in the third inning scored.

Orioles 3, Athletics 2

At Baltimore, David Hernandez out-pitched Trevor Cahill in a duel between rookie right-handers, and Baltimore ended a nine-game losing streak against Oakland.

Brian Roberts had three hits, an RBI and two stolen bases for the Orioles, who had been outscored 30-6 in their previous four games against Oakland this season. It was Baltimore's first win over the A's since July 22, 2007.

Hernandez (4-4) allowed two runs, six hits and a walk in 6 2-3 innings. He gave up solo homers to Scott Hairston and Adam Kennedy. Jim Johnson got three outs for his fourth save.

Royals 14, Twins 6

At Minneapolis, Miguel Olivo homered and drove in three runs, and Kansas City had its highest run total of the season.

Olivo and David DeJesus both had three hits for the Royals.

Joe Mauer had three hits and Orlando Cabrera extended his career-best hitting streak to 20 games for Minnesota, which has lost five of six and eight of 10.

Making his second start since being recalled from Triple-A Omaha, Kyle Davies (4-8) allowed one earned run and five hits in five innings.

Minnesota's Nick Blackburn (8-7) allowed six runs—four earned—and six hits in 1 2-3 innings, his shortest outing of the season.

Phillies 4, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Ben Francisco led off the 12th inning with a home run off closer Kevin Gregg and Philadelphia defeated Chicago 4-3 on Tuesday night despite getting only three hits all game.

Jimmy Rollins homered for the Phillies, who won for just the fourth time in 12 games and remained 3 1/2 games ahead of Florida in the NL East. The Cubs have lost five of six.

Francisco, acquired from Cleveland in the July 29 trade that included left-hander Cliff Lee (notes), lined a 1-1 pitch from Gregg (4-4) into the basket that hangs over the left-field fence. Francisco is batting .345 with six homers and 12 RBIs in his last 16 games.

Dodgers 9, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Manny Ramirez hit a towering two-run homer and also doubled in a run after two earlier intentional walks and the Los Angeles Dodgers routed the rival San Francisco Giants 9-1 on Tuesday night.

Andre Ethier doubled twice and drove in two runs for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who increased their division lead over the Giants to 7 1/2 games and hold a 7-4 edge in the season series.

Matt Kemp added a three-run homer three batters after Ramirez connected in the seventh and many fans in the sellout crowd of 41,167 quickly started heading for the exits.

Marlins 9, Astros 8, 11 innings

At Miami, Dan Uggla hit a game-ending RBI single with the bases loaded in the 11th inning, and Florida won its fifth straight.

Chris Coghlan started the inning with a walk off Wesley Wright (2-2), then Nick Johnson walked. After Hanley Ramirez and Jorge Cantu struck out, John Baker walked to load the bases.

Alberto Arias entered in relief, and

Uggla lined a single through the left side of the infield.

Brian Sanches (3-1) pitched the 10th to get the win.

The Marlins had come back from a five-run deficit to take the lead before Geoff Blum's RBI double in the ninth off Leo Nunez tied it.

Carlos Lee had a two-run double, and Miguel Tejada added a two-run single to highlight a five-run fifth that gave Houston a 6-2 lead.

Padres 13, Brewers 6

At Milwaukee, Adrian Gonzalez had a career-high six hits and San Diego had its best offensive output of the season.

Gonzalez paced the 22-hit attack as the Padres had at least two hits in every inning except the fourth when they were retired in order. Gonzalez singled in the first, fifth, sixth, seventh and ninth, and doubled in the third. It was first time a San Diego player had six hits in a nine-inning game and fourth time overall.

Chase Headley and Kevin Kouzmanoff each had three hits, and Will Venable (notes) and Gonzalez both had three RBIs.

San Diego won for the 10th time in 14 games, scoring a season high for runs against Milwaukee—and starter Braden Looper for the second time in 12 days.

On July 31, Looper gave up six runs and 10 hits over five innings, but ended up with a no-decision in an 11-7 loss to the Padres.

Reds 5, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, journeyman fill-in Justin Lehr worked into the seventh inning to win his second straight outing and Alex Gonzalez matched his career high with four hits for Cincinnati.

Layne Nix had a two-run double in a three-run first inning against stand-in starter Mitchell Boggs, helping end the Cardinals' four-game winning streak.

Francisco Cordero allowed a run and two hits in the ninth before getting Matt Holliday on a called third strike with the tying run on second for his 25th save in 26 chances.

Albert Pujols hit his major league-leading 37th homer in the eighth, ending a 1-for-18 slump at home. Yadier Molina's RBI double in the eighth was his third hit and Holliday singled three times as the Cardinals finished with 15 hits.

Braves 8, Nationals 1

At Atlanta, Rookie Tommy Hanson struck out nine in 6 2-3 innings and Atlanta snapped Washington's eight-game winning streak.

The Braves have won four straight, six of seven and 16 of 25 since the All-Star break.

Hanson (7-2) had his second-most strikeouts since being called up from Triple-A in early June, surpassed only by an 11-strikeout effort against San Francisco on July 20. He allowed seven hits and didn't walk anyone.

Chipper Jones, back in the Atlanta lineup after missing three straight games with a strained oblique muscle, hit a mammoth homer that reached the second section of seats in right field.

The Nationals' eight straight wins were the second-longest streak since the franchise moved to Washington four years ago, surpassed only by a 10-game run in June 2005.

Pirates 7, Rockies 3

At Denver, Ross Ohlendorf pitched solidly into the seventh inning and Andrew McCutchen stole three bases and scored three runs as Pittsburgh ended an eight-game losing streak.

Troy Tulowitzki, who had five hits, seven RBIs and hit for the cycle Monday night, homered in his first at-bat Tuesday, and Carlos Gonzalez (notes) also homered for the Rockies.

Todd Helton tripled and singled to extend his hitting streak to 16 games.

Ohlendorf (10-8) gave up three runs and six hits in six-plus innings.

Jhoulys Chacin (0-1), making his first major league start, gave up one hit but allowed five runs and walked six in 2 2-3 innings.

After Tulowitzki's 22nd homer tied the game 1-all in the bottom of the second, the Pirates scored four in the third, two on Delwyn Young's triple.

Diamondbacks 6, Mets 2

At Phoenix, Trent Oeltjen extended his remarkable big league debut with four more hits, falling a homer shy of the cycle, and Alex Romero had two hits and two RBIs for Arizona.

Oeltjen has 12 hits in his first 24 at-bats since his contract was purchased from Triple-A Reno to replace injured Justin Upton on Aug. 6. He has hit safely in all five of his major league games.

The native of Australia singled and scored in a three-run third inning capped by Romero's two-run single. He tripled and scored in the fourth for a 5-2 Arizona lead.

Right-hander Max Scherzer (7-6) gave up two runs in 6 2-3 innings for his first victory in three career outings against the Mets.

Livan Hernandez (7-7) gave up six hits and five runs in four innings for New York, which has lost 10 of 13 after a five-game winning streak.

Timberwolves introduce Rambis as coach



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—At first blush, the marriage between Kurt Rambis and the Minnesota Timberwolves is a head-scratcher.

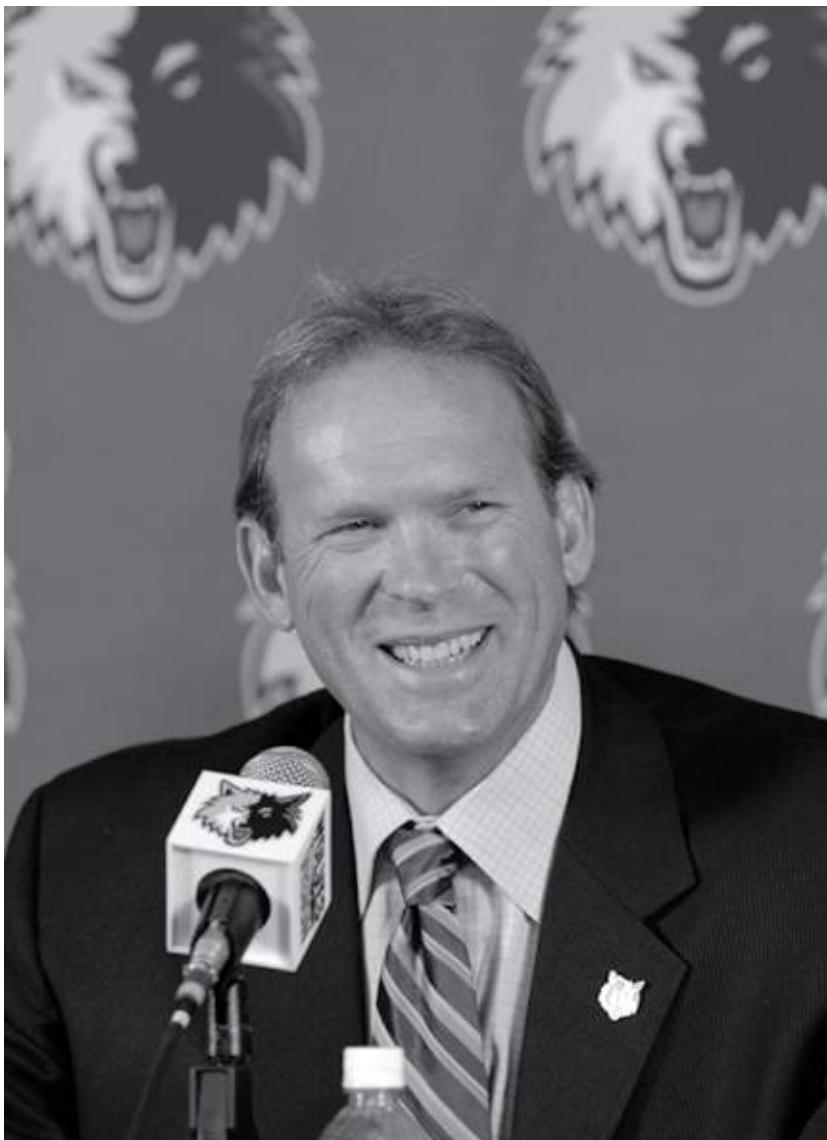
Rambis was born in Cupertino, Calif., and spent the vast majority of his playing and coaching career in sunny Los Angeles. He doesn't own a winter coat and has deep roots in a Lakers organization that has won 15 NBA titles.

The Timberwolves, meanwhile, haven't been to the playoffs since 2004, have advanced to the second round just once in 20 years and call single-digit temperatures in February a heat wave.

So why would Rambis want to leave the defending NBA champions, and his post as the possible successor to Phil Jackson in star-studded LA, to take over a team that won 24 games last season in chilly Minnesota?

"I left an incredible job in Los Angeles. That team has a chance to win several NBA championships, but when an opportunity like this comes along, to build a team like I envision and playing a style of ball I would like to teach, to work with quality individuals we already have, it could not be passed up," Rambis said Tuesday after being

AP
Kurt Rambis, the Minnesota Timberwolves new head basketball coach, addresses a news conference where he was introduced Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, in Minneapolis.



introduced as the ninth head coach in Timberwolves history.

His brief acting career aside, it's not like Rambis was the picture of California Cool during his playing days in the 1980s. With thick, black-rimmed glasses, frizzy hair that went in every direction and a wiry physique, Rambis looked more like one of the Hanson brothers from the hockey comedy "Slap Shot."

Considering that the three actors who played those hilarious misfits grew up in Minnesota, a place that proudly calls itself "The State of Hockey," maybe Rambis will fit in perfectly after all.

"Coming from sunny southern California where the weather's always great, I think of snow and I think, 'It can't be all that great,'" Rambis said. "But everybody talks about how much they love living here, growing up here. They think it is a great city and I'm going to love it here."

The colder weather isn't the only thing he will have to get used to in Minnesota.

The Timberwolves have an even younger roster today than they did last season when they went 24-58. New president David Kahn has spent his first summer on the job reshaping the roster with an eye toward being a major player on the free agent market next year. He said this week that wins may be sacrificed to give those youngsters some experience next season.

Swingman Corey Brewer, who was drafted in 2007, is the longest tenured Timberwolves player. There are building

blocks in Al Jefferson, Kevin Love, Jonny Flynn and, eventually, Ricky Rubio.

But this team is still expected to go through plenty of growing pains—and losses—in the next year or two.

"I know losing is part of it and if the players handle the situation, I'll help guide them through that," Rambis said. "Developing a distaste for losing yet all the while growing from the experiences so they can help avoid it in the future is going to be paramount for me as a coach and it's going to help them learn as players when we finally turn this franchise around and start winning."

Still, there is some trust involved for Rambis to leave the Lakers and take a job in a league with a high turnover rate for head coaches. Rambis said he wasn't sure how long Jackson would continue coaching the Lakers and jumped at the opportunity to take over a team with plenty of financial flexibility, draft picks and young talent.

"I like his ideas and I like how excited he was," Jefferson said. "He left a great job to come here and that meant a lot to me."

Owner Glen Taylor said the clincher for Rambis over finalists Mark Jackson and Elston Turner was that Rambis was recruiting the Wolves as much as the Wolves were recruiting Rambis.

"He really wanted the job and that impressed me coming out of the organization that he's been in and the opportunities that he might have there in the future," Taylor said.

Report: Pitino tells cops he paid for abortion

AP
Interview why she waited until after she was indicted on the extortion charge to report her allegations.

Louisville athletic director Tom Jurch said in a statement that "Coach Pitino has been truthful with us about this matter all along and we stand by him and his family during this process."

The newspaper cited Louisville Metro Police reports from an investigation into Sypher's rape accusations. The



AP
This Dec. 18, 2008 file photo shows Louisville head coach Rick Pitino on the sidelines against Mississippi in an NCAA college basketball game in Cincinnati. A newspaper is reporting that Louisville coach Rick Pitino told police he had sex and paid for an abortion for the woman accused of trying to extort him for \$10 million. The Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on its Web site Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, that Pitino told police he had been drinking in a Louisville restaurant and had consensual sex with Karen Sypher in August 2003.

This Dec. 18, 2008 file photo shows Louisville head coach Rick Pitino on the sidelines against Mississippi in an NCAA college basketball game in Cincinnati. A newspaper is reporting that Louisville coach Rick Pitino told police he had sex and paid for an abortion for the woman accused of trying to extort him for \$10 million. The Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on its Web site Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, that Pitino told police he had been drinking in a Louisville restaurant and had consensual sex with Karen Sypher in August 2003.

University sports information director Kenny Klein said Pitino was in his office on Tuesday but directed all inquiries to Pence.

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers' Gasol has surgery on non-shooting hand

MADRID (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol had surgery on his left index finger after an injury during practice with Spain's national team. He will be sidelined at least three weeks. The Spanish basketball federation said Tuesday that Gasol damaged a ligament in his non-shooting hand Monday while blocking a shot. He will wear a splint for 20 days, but the federation did not say if he will play in the European Championship in Poland, which starts Sept. 7. "I want to be with my teammates and fight for the championship," the Spanish news agency Efe quoted him as saying at a news conference in Cadiz. "I don't see why I would have to drop out." He said he has spoken with the Lakers and expects to get approval to play with the national team. "Pau had a conversation with our head trainer this morning," said Lakers spokesman John Black. "We're trying to get our team doctor in touch with the doctor that did the surgery. Right now, we're gathering information." Spain, the reigning world champion, was runner-up to the United States at the Beijing Olympics.

Wizards sign Ex-Spurs Oberto

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Washington Wizards say they have signed forward-center Fabricio Oberto, giving the team added frontcourt depth. The 6-foot-10, 245-pound Oberto averaged 3.6 points and 3.9 rebounds in four seasons with San Antonio. The Spurs traded Oberto to Detroit this summer as part of a five-player deal; the Pistons then waived Oberto. Oberto helped the Spurs win the 2007 NBA title and Argentina win a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics. "Fabricio is a proven winner with extensive playoff experience,"

Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. "He is a skilled big man and a rugged veteran." Washington traded reserve forwards Etan Thomas(notes), Darius Songaila and Oleksiy Pecherov(notes) to Minnesota in June.

Pistons hire Brian Hill as assistant

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Pistons have added a veteran NBA coach to help their rookie on the bench. The Pistons said Monday they have hired Brian Hill to work as an assistant coach on John Kuester's first staff as an NBA head coach. Hill's 36-year career includes leading the Orlando Magic to the 1995 NBA finals and being the Vancouver Grizzlies' first coach. Hill, who is from East Orange, N.J., was the New Jersey Nets' staff the past two seasons. Kuester is a former Cavaliers assistant. He is the sixth Pistons head coach in the past 10 years.

Davis re-signs with Celtics

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—All summer, Glen "Big Baby" Davis waited for a new deal from the Celtics. When training camp grew near and he was still unsigned, he figured it might never come. "There was a point I thought I wasn't going to be back. I was telling my girlfriend, 'We've got to pack,'" he said Monday. "I hate packing." Davis can put the suitcases away, because the Celtics finally rescued him from restricted free agency with a two-year deal worth about \$6 million that keeps him on the team that he helped win an NBA championship in his rookie season, two years ago. The Celtics also signed free agent Shelden Williams(notes) on Monday, adding a second young forward to a frontcourt that broke down last season in the playoffs.

Davis, who's 23, and Williams, who will be 26 by opening night, give Boston some youth at a position that has shown its age.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino told police he had sex with a woman accused of trying to extort him of \$10 million and later paid for her abortion, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on its Web site that Pitino told police he had been drinking in a Louisville restaurant and had consensual sex with Karen Sypher in August 2003. The police report said the 56-year-old coach denied allegations by Sypher that he raped her after the restaurant closed and at another time somewhere else. He said he later gave her \$3,000 for an abortion.

Sypher reported the rape allegations to police last month, but a Kentucky prosecutor said the complaint wouldn't be prosecuted because it lacked supporting evidence. Sypher, 49, has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of lying to the FBI and trying to extort money from Pitino, who is married.

About two weeks after meeting Sypher at the restaurant, Pitino told police that she called, told him she was pregnant and that he had to be the father. Pitino told her when they met again that he had five children and she had four, and that he didn't know what he wanted to do, according to the report by Sgt. Andy Abbott, commander of the sex-offense unit.

Pitino said Sypher told him she was going to have an abortion but didn't have health insurance, so he gave her the money, according to Abbott's report.

Pitino's lawyer, Steve Pence, said the story is about Sypher and not his client. "Karen Sypher is indicted for extortion," Pence said. "The commonwealth's attorney has said she is void

of any credibility on these 6-year-old allegations she has made."

Louisville athletic director Tom Jurch said in a statement that "Coach Pitino has been truthful with us about this matter all along and we stand by him and his family during this process."

The newspaper cited Louisville Metro Police reports from an investigation into Sypher's rape accusations. The

interview why she waited until after she was indicted on the extortion charge to report her allegations.

She gave varying answers, according to transcripts, saying she wanted to forget about it, then that Pitino threatened her and finally that "they kept throwing crumbs to keep me happy." She didn't say what they were, the newspaper reported.

Abbott asked Sypher in the interview why she was coming forward now, only after she was charged.

"Because ... where we are, it seems like retaliation," Abbott said.

"I know it does," Sypher responded.

The case became public in April when Pitino released a statement saying someone had tried to extort him. Pitino said he reported it to the FBI, and Sypher surrendered to authorities a few days later when she was named in a criminal complaint. At the time, several media outlets declined to air interviews with Sypher about allegations against Pitino because they were personal and unsubstantiated.

This Dec. 18, 2008 file photo shows Louisville head coach Rick Pitino on the sidelines against Mississippi in an NCAA college basketball game in Cincinnati. A newspaper is reporting that Louisville coach Rick Pitino told police he had sex and paid for an abortion for the woman accused of trying to extort him for \$10 million. The Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on its Web site Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009, that Pitino told police he had been drinking in a Louisville restaurant and had consensual sex with Karen Sypher in August 2003.

University sports information director Kenny Klein said Pitino was in his office on Tuesday but directed all inquiries to Pence.

RGA, SGA tournaments this weekend; Belau softball league meeting today

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its qualifying tournament for the August Ace of the Month title this Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.

Check-in time is 11am, while tee time is at 12pm.

The qualifier is open to the first 20 RGA members to register for the event.

Winner of this Saturday's round will hold the score to beat in RGA's next tournament. If his score is undefeated, he gets to keep the August Ace title.

The August Ace crown will be at stake this Sunday

when Saipan Golf Association holds a tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Check-in time is set for 9am, while tee off will be at 10am. The tournament is open to 26 players.

In softball, Belau Amateur Softball Association will be holding a mandatory meeting for its men's open league.

Managers or representatives of the 14 participating teams are required to attend the meeting tonight at 6pm at the pavilion across the JP Center in Beach Road, Garapan. (PR)

Former PBA cager to play in UFO league tonight



Former Philippine Basketball Association player

Ramon Dizon will suit up for Boholanos tonight, as the University of Loyola and Raffy's Diner-sponsored team aims for a semis ticket against MDX-Armatech.

Dizon played for Royal True Orange in the late 70s and battled guards Hector Calma and Francis Arnaiz. The 6'1" former pro was the youngest player to become a rookie in the PBA, entering Asia's first professional league at the age of 21.

In 1979, he was the fiercest rival of the late Arnie Tu-



Dizon

ades for the PBA Rookie of the Year Award.

The former PBA player also participated in the PBA Legends Tour, which featured former

pros playing exhibition games in the mainland.

The MDX-Boholanos playoff in the masters division is set for 6pm before the Bayani vs. VisMinda game in the open division at 7:30 p.m.

The winner of the MDX-Boholanos game will face pennant champion Bayani-Shirley's in the semifinals next week. The other semis pairing in the masters division will have NMBA-Ebisuya squaring off with Cabalen tomorrow.

In the open division, the victor of the VisMinda-Bayani duel will collide with the undefeated MDX-Chow Queen Bakery in the semifinals.

NMBA-Jam V Fashion and defending champion SIP will square off in the other semis game next week.

The playoff rounds in both the open and masters divisions have a single-elimination format, but the championship will be a best-of-three affair. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

3 CNMI

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appearances since joining the New York Yankees in 1995. The shortstop helped the Yankees triumphed in the World Series in 1996 against the Atlanta Braves, in 1998 over the San Diego Padres, in 1999 against rival Boston Red Sox, and in 2000 against the Mets in the Subway Series. Jeter also brought the Yankees to the World Series in 2001 and 2003, but they lost to the Arizona Diamondbacks and Florida Marlins, respectively.

Jeters' followers, Tenorio, Jebehn, and Aguon will be making their first "World Series" (for Little League) stint this weekend in Taylor, Michigan.

The 14-year-old Tenorio will be one of the outfielders for the CNMI Junior All-Stars, who will be competing against the youth sluggers from Juan A. Bibiloni LL Yabuoa of Puerto Rico, Friuli Venezia Giulia LL of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy, Aruba North LL, Oranjestad, Aruba, and Canada.

Tenorio admitted he was encouraged to try baseball when he was only eight years old because he knows the sport does not have homework. However, after being selected to play for the CNMI in the regionals and now in the World Series, Tenorio is doing more than what

homework requires. He and the 12 other CNMI players had been rigorously training for the World Series for more than a month despite the uncooperative weather.

Training sessions are being done at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinna Ballfield and even at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium when it is raining.

Aguon will be joining forces with Tenorio in picking up fly balls and grounders outfield and he knows teamwork and communication will be important, as they will be facing big hitters in the World Series.

Jebehn is part of that teamwork, as he will be one of the outfielders for the CNMI Junior All-Stars too.

The 15-year-old Jebehn is confident of the team's chances in the World Series, as they have been preparing hard, mentally and physically, under the watchful eyes of coaches Oliver Secarmidal and Bernard Cabrera and manager Thelma Mizer.

Jebehn and company will be leaving for the World Series this Friday.

The champion in the International Group (CNMI, Canada, Italy, Aruba, and Puerto Rico) will be pitted against the winner in the U.S. bracket for the World Series title. The World Series will run from Aug. 16 to 22.

CNMI

From Page 28

Davis, Newman, Coleman, Fejeran, and Gries, had been selected to play for the CNMI against Guam in the past years. The team also had a few mixed of high school players in Jewell, Roberts, Gramlich, Tenorio, and Smith, and the rest of its members are regulars in the NMIFA's leagues.

Kambe devised a three-stage training regimen for the team to prepare them for the EAFF event, which will run from Aug. 22 to 30

and will also feature teams from Guam, Hong Kong, South Korea, and host Chinese-Taipei.

The first stage, according to the CNMI Coach, focused on individually skills for technical and tactical aspects of the game. The second part was about functional (positional) training and basic endurance training, while the last leg was putting into practice what they have learned and final conditioning.

Kambe said that by the time the three stages are completed at the end of this week, he believes his wards are all set for their first international tournament.

its offensive game going. The X-Terminators scored only one run in the first four innings on a Mel Sakisat's single before a seven-run top of the fifth put them in control of the match.

Second basemen Oliver Secarmidal led Advance's breakaway, hitting a two-run double in the fifth inning. He went 3-for-4 at bat, scored two runs, and had three RBIs. Roy Celis, Manny Sablan, J.J. Laniyo, Eric Palacios, and Sakisat had one RBIs apiece in that inning to give Advance the needed cushion.

Advance was shut out in the sixth inning, but saved the best

"Their conditioning [physically and mentally] is getting better every practice session and I believe they are ready to play," Kambe said.

The CNMI Women's National Team will leave Saipan four days before the EAFF tournament, as they will play two exhibition matches in Chiba, Japan before going to Taiwan. The team will leave for Japan on Aug. 18, and on the same day in the afternoon the CNMI's female strikers will challenge the JEF United Ichihara Chiba Ladies U-18. On Aug. 19, the CNMI bets will take on JEF

for last, blasting 10 runs at the top of the seventh against Natibu's erratic defense. The X-Terminators scored four runs off Natibu's errors.

With the second qualifier finally completed, KOD has only two qualifying tournaments left. The third qualifier is set for Sept. 26 and 27, while the fourth/consolation round is scheduled for Oct. 3 and 4.

The fourth/consolation round will determine the team to get the last spot on the "Tournament of Champions." Only squads that competed in at least two of the first three rounds are

allowed to join the consolation round. The first three qualifiers has an entrance fee of \$150 per team, while the fourth/consolation round is free.

The "Tournament of Champions" will be played on Oct. 17 and 18 with the winner moving into the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament and battling champion teams from Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei. Saipan will host the KOD finale from Nov. 12 to 15.

For more information about KOD, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185 or Liz Palacios at 287-8869.

another outside shot and Elmer Esdrelon and Nate Mateo followed suit with their long jumpers to widen the gap and foil Cabalen's upset bid.

Cabalen was last seeded in the playoffs, after winning only two games in the regular season. However, Cabalen behind Jessie Mina and Andrew Ortega gave SIP a good run for its money in the first quarter, which ended at 30-all.

Cabalen stayed in the game in the second quarter before Mendiola and Brendon Talania led an SIP rally in the last four minutes of that canto to take a double-digit halftime lead, 62-48.

The lead ballooned to as much as 20 in the third period, 75-55, but SIP started to play around, allowing Ortega and company to come back.

Mendiola and Talania top-scored for SIP with 22 points

apiece, leading the defending champion to its sixth straight win. SIP had only one loss this season after bowing to pennant champion MDX-Chow Queen Bakery in the league's opener.

In the first game, NMBA-Ebisuya was also favored against MIFICPA. After taking a double-digit margin in the first half, 40-29, NMBA relaxed at the start of the second half and had its lead trimmed down to a hair entering the final canto, 56-57.

NMBA redeemed itself in the payoff period, allowing only two MIFICPA players to score and limiting the entire team to 10 points to preserve the win.

NMBA now joins Bayani-Shirley's and Cabalen in the masters semis.

Pasky Peleno paced NMBA with 15 points, while William Opone drilled 14, making 12 of them in the second half.

Masters

NMBA 80 – Peleno 15, Opone 14, Rebuyon 12, Casabuena 9, Santos 7, Morales 6, Olivos 6, Macoto 4, Abedes 4, Tobias 3.

MIFICPA 66 – Gonzales 19, Ebuen 14, Leong 13, Generoso 10, Ancheta 8, Epan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-6, 40-29, 57-56, 80-66.

Open

SIP 115 – Mendiola 22, Talania 22, Mateo 20, Guiab 14, Esdrelon 13, Factor 9, Punzalan 6, Villacrusis 4, Fernandez 3, Camacho 2.

Cabalen 95 – Mina 21, Ortega 21, Guiang 17, Tobias 10, Cadag 6, Guinto 4, Corotan 3, Asuncion 2, Banayat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-30, 62-48, 88-75, 115-95.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB.
New York 70	43	.619	
Boston 64	48	.571	5 1/2
Tampa Bay 61	52	.540	9
Toronto 54	58	.482	15 1/2
Baltimore 47	66	.416	23

Central Division

St. Louis 63	52	.548	–
Chicago 58	53	.523	3
Milwaukee 55	57	.491	6 1/2
Houston 55	58	.487	7
Cincinnati 49	63	.438	12 1/2
Pittsburgh 46	66	.411	15 1/5

Western Division

Los Angeles 69	45	.605	
Colorado 62	51	.549	6 1/2
San Francisco 61	52	.540	7 1/2
Arizona 52	62	.456	17
San Diego 48	66	.421	21

Yesterday's Games

New York 7, Toronto 5	
Boston 7, Detroit 5	
LA Angeles 6, Tampa Bay 0	
Chicago Whi Sox 3, Seattle 1	
Cleveland 5, Texas 0	
Baltimore 3, Oakland 2	
Kansas City 14, Minnesota 6	
Philadelphia 4, Chi Cubs 3	
LA Dodgers 9, San Francisco 1	
Florida 9, Houston 8	
San Diego 13, Milwaukee 6	
Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 4	
Atlanta 8, Washington 1	
Pittsburgh 7, Colorado 3	
Arizona 6, New York 2	



Former PBA cager to play in UFO league tonight

Former Philippine Basketball Association player Ramon Dizon will suit up for Boholanos tonight, as the University of Loyola and Raffy's Diner-sponsored team aims for a semis ticket.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Agent: 'No chance' of Vick signing with Redskins

It seems "a lot of teams" are interested in Michael Vick. The Washington Redskins, apparently, aren't one of them.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Women's Football Team named

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twenty female strikers were named to the CNMI Football Team that will compete in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition in Tainan City, Taiwan, later this month.

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI coach Sugao Kambe, in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, said members of the Commonwealth's team were selected after more than three months of rigorous training.

Making it to the CNMI Women's National Team are Natalie Hill, Madison Smith, Carrie Knight, Angela Shyrack, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Brenda Schultz, Lindsay Davis, Melody Matson, Zoe Jewell, Katie Peters, Michiko Tenorio, Patricia Coleman, Brianna Martin, Amber Roberts, Rebecca Newman, Maryana Gramlich, Amanda Allen, Emily Gries, Elisa Fejoran, and Felicia McFarland.



Several members of the team, like Schultz, *See CNMI on Page 27*



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
J.J. Laniyo, seen here swinging during the first KOD qualifier, went 4-for-5 in Advance's 18-3 final wins over Natibu in the second qualifying tournament last Tuesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Back-to-back KOD win for Advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Advance faced a different foe in the finals of the second qualifier for the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament, but recorded the same results, as the X-Terminators whipped Natibu, 18-3, last Tuesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The X-Terminators, who topped Kulan Zamu in the first qualifier in June, was undefeated in the long-delayed second qualifier and downed Natibu twice in the tournament that was originally set two weeks ago.

It rained last week, forcing Advance and the six other teams to play KOD games on weekdays. Three straight wins moved the X-Terminators to the finals with the last



one against Natibu in the winner's bracket semifinals. Advance prevailed against Natibu in the semis by only once run, 7-6, but came out more prepared in the finals, routing its foe.

Natibu earned a rematch against the X-Terminators after outclassing Kulan Zamu in the loser's bracket semis, 14-8. Kulan Zamu challenged Natibu in the semis after beating SaiPal in the other play-off game, 10-7. The battle for the last finals seat was played on the same night and Natibu ran out of juice in the finale against Advance.

Natibu went only 8-for-26 at the plate, scoring only in the fourth and seventh inning.

A Henry Iguel Jr. single drove Ben Cabrera Jr. home for Natibu's first run in the game, while a J.R. Suel sacrifice

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 27

SIP, NMBA gain semifinal slots



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
SIP's Nate Mateo loses his balance, as he is fouled by Cabalen's Ferdie Tobias during their playoff game in the open division of the UFO caging last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense kept its title defense bid alive after advancing to the semifinals in the open division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League, while Northern Marianas Bartenders Association also gained a Final Four appearance in the masters

See SIP on Page 27

3 CNMI Junior Leaguers upbeat on World Series stint



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Second of a three-part series

CNMI Junior All-Stars' Patrick Tenorio, Arthur Jebehn, and Alan Aguon are Derek Jeter fans and the Commonwealth's youth sluggers are sort of about to experience what their idol had been through.

Jeter had made six World Series



Name: Alan Aguon Jr.
Age: 14
School: Chacha Oceanview
Favorite Team: Fielders
Favorite Player: Derek Jeter



Name: Arthur Jebehn
Age: 15
Parents: Helen and Primo Jebehn
School: Kagman High School
Favorite Team: Kagman Lions
Favorite Player: Derek Jeter



Name: Patrick Tenorio
Age: 14
Parents: Patrick and Charlene Tenorio
School: Marianas High School
Favorite Team: Fielders
Favorite Player: Derek Jeter and Oliver Secharmidal

